

STARS AND STRIPES®



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A singer and
a storyteller
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Lt. Gen. Wright
expects troops
to be professional
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N.C. State's Cedric Simmons, left, and Wake Forest's Eric Williams

Top four teams
get Madness
going early
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Volume 63, No. 324 © SS 2005 J

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

50¢



U.S. servicemembers in military vehicles man a checkpoint Saturday on Airport Road, the route leading to Baghdad International Airport. American troops on Friday fired on the car rushing Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after a month in captivity. Sgrena was wounded and Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence officer who helped negotiate her release, was killed.

Horror on Airport Road

Shooting of journalist, agent took place on feared path out of Baghdad

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — The route runs through a broad and flat landscape, bare but for a few date palms rising tall and dignified and the occasional small bush. Except for the litter of plastic bottles and bags, the scene is almost pastoral, peaceful.

It hardly seems the place where people could hide and detonate bombs or jump out and ambush vehicles. But this is Baghdad's Airport Road, six miles paved with dread.

It was on this road that U.S. soldiers opened fire Friday night on the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence agent who had negotiated her release from Sunni insurgents.

SEE ROAD ON PAGE 5



Giuliana Sgrena



Nicola Calipari

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- **Funeral held for agent** Page 9

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Judge's family murders: The parents of white supremacist Matthew Hale said they don't believe that any member of Hale's group is capable of murdering a federal judge's husband and mother.

In separate telephone interviews, Evelyn Hutcheson and Russell Hale said Sunday they are worried authorities will cancel their visits to their son, who is awaiting sentencing next month for soliciting an FBI informant to kill Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkoff in Chicago.

World

Iran nuclear program: Iran confirmed on Monday that its Natanz uranium enrichment plant in central Iran is underground to protect its nuclear equipment from any possible airstrikes, but it insisted that was not a sign the program aims to produce weapons.

U.S. officials have said building nuclear facilities underground is inconsistent with Iran's claims that its nuclear intentions are peaceful.

Ali Akbar Salehi, a nuclear affairs adviser to the Iranian foreign minister, said U.S. and Israeli threats to the program forced Iran to take precautions to protect its technology — including the string of centrifuges used to enrich uranium — even though, Iran says, the program aims only to produce electricity.

Rabin assassin's request: The Israeli Supreme Court on Monday rejected a request by Yitzhak Rabin's assassin to have conjugal visits with the woman he says he married by proxy.

Yigal Amir, who is serving a life term for the Nov. 4, 1995, killing of Rabin, had sought permission to have conjugal visits with Larisa Trimbolier.

Congo violence: Militiamen and renegade soldiers have raped and beaten tens of thousands of women and young girls in eastern Congo, and nearly all the crimes have gone unpunished by the country's broken judicial system, an international human rights group said Monday.

Hundreds of new rapes are reported every week, but only 10 soldiers and militants have been convicted of rape in relatively lawless eastern Congo since the end of the country's devastating war in 2002, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report.

Pope's recovery: Pope John Paul II is likely to be released from the hospital in time for Holy Week services that begin with Palm Sunday on March 20 and culminate



Pakistan rape verdict protest: Pakistani women stage a rally Monday to support a rape victim in Multan, Pakistan. More than 3,000 women rallied in this eastern Pakistani city, demanding justice and protection for Mukhtar Mai, a 33-year-old teacher, whose alleged rapists were released by a court last week. Mai — who attended the rally — was allegedly gang raped in June 2002 by men from Mastoi clan, considered to be socially higher than her Gujjar tribe in Meerwala. A court sentenced six men to death for Mai's rape. But an appeals court in Multan last Thursday overturned the conviction of five of the men and reduced the other man's sentence to life in prison.

with Easter, the Vatican said Monday.

The pope has suffered no complications since a Feb. 24 surgery to insert a tube in his windpipe and ease his second breathing crisis in a month, said papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls. But he said doctors have cautioned John Paul not to use his voice too much to ensure he makes a complete recovery.

West Bank violence: Palestinian militants wounded two Israeli border police men in a shooting attack on a military post near a West Bank shrine Monday, the latest attempt to disrupt a delicate cease-fire.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reacting to the attack, said Jews would continue to live and pray in Hebron, endorsing the settler presence in the tense city.

N. Korea nuke talks: The top U.S. negotiator for the North Korea nuclear dispute will visit Washington and Tokyo this week to seek ways to lure Pyongyang back to the negotiating table, the U.S. Embassy said Monday.

Christopher Hill will meet Kenichiro Sasae, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau, on

Thursday, the embassy said. In Washington, Hill is expected to hold consultations on the six-party talks and give a speech before returning to South Korea.

Taiwanese president shooting: Investigators on Monday said the "most likely suspect" in the election-eve shooting that grazed the Taiwanese president's stomach was an unemployed man in his 30s who was depressed about the economy and committed suicide shortly after the attack.

Chief investigator Hou You-yi told reporters that evidence linking the suspect, Chen Yi-hsiung, to the shooting included video footage of the crime scene.

Business

Justice Department v. Microsoft: The Justice Department, which challenged Microsoft Corp. in courtrooms for nearly a decade over antitrust violations, will pay more than \$2 million each year to buy business software from Corel Corp., a leading Microsoft rival.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Gen. Wright: 'Moral commitment' a priority

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The commander of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force released a statement Friday in which he offered insights into his command philosophy.

Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright stated in the release that his philosophy boils down to two words: unwavering professionalism.

He stated that the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps each have core values that collectively include characteristics such as integrity, service, excellence,

honor, courage, commitment, loyalty, duty and respect.

"These values are founded on what the majority of us believe and can be further boiled down to two main principles ... moral commitment and technical proficiency," Wright stated.

He wrote that moral commitment is "consistently doing the right thing, both in terms of what society expects of us, as well as what we should expect of ourselves when we look in the mirror."

He said the relation between moral commitment and leadership is no coincidence.

Wright defined technical proficiency as "making a commitment to being the most competent individual you can be — both in your professional and personal conduct — and it's about taking that competency and applying it to helping others within the command reach our common objectives."



Wright

"If some of this is new to you, that's okay," Wright wrote. "You now know about your new commander's 'code of conduct' for U.S. Forces, Japan. There is absolutely no doubt among every single member of U.S. Forces, Japan understands and lives by the standards I have described."

"For the very few who choose a different path, I will not abide standards that our force can and will not accept," Wright stated. "Those who cannot find the self-discipline to maintain the standards of our profession will not be tolerated within our ranks."

Blue Ridge on port call

The USS Blue Ridge, the 7th Fleet's command ship, arrived in Singapore on Monday for a routine port visit, according to a Navy news release.

The ship's approximately 1,000-sailor crew "will have a chance to sightsee, shop, enjoy sandy beaches and participate in friendship and goodwill activities," according to the release.

The Blue Ridge is permanently forward-deployed to the western Pacific and operates out of Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Airman punished

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — A 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron member recently pleaded guilty at a base court-martial to driving while under the influence of alcohol and fleeing the scene of an accident.

Senior Airman Francisco Rodriguez received a reduction in rank to airman, or E-2, 15 days of confinement and 15 days of hard labor without confinement, according to a base news report.

Rodriguez was driving on White Pole road when he crashed into a street pole at about 5 a.m. on Sept. 18. He tried to drive away but his security forces cut him off, according to the report. Rodriguez then tried to leave on foot but was apprehended.

His 251 blood alcohol content was the highest reading from the 34 DUI cases 35th Security Forces Squadron investigated in 2004, a security forces investigator testified at court proceedings.

Deputy promoted

Maj. Gen. Timothy R. Larsen, deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan, was promoted from brigadier general Monday morning at the Yokota Air Base, Japan, Officers' Club.

Larsen has held his USFJ position since September 2003 and has been in the Marine Corps since 1973, according to USFJ.

Zama High concert

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — The Zama American High School Band is scheduled to hold a fund-raising concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the school auditorium.

Proceeds will help pay to expand the band's music library, school officials said.

From staff reports

Salmon release to kick off Earth Day events

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Misawa base residents have a chance to do something good for the planet during a series of Earth Day activities on base and in local communities throughout the spring.

Kicking off this year's environment-friendly events is the 9th Annual Baby Salmon Release on March 19, in Shimoda Town about six miles south of the base.

About 300,000 to 400,000 salmon on fingerlings are to be released into the Oirase River about two miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean. The event helps maintain the northern Japan salmon population. River siltation keeps the fish from their ancestral spawning ground at the Oirase River headwaters near Lake Towada, said Paul Teasley, Naval Air Facility Misawa's environmental department director.

The baby salmon are bred from adult fish captured in Shimoda Town's November salmon festival. Teasley said the Japanese government funds a protected growing area for the salmon until

their release. After the 2½-inch-long fish are released into the river, they'll eventually make their way downstream to the Pacific Ocean, Teasley said. There's no way to determine how many fish make it to the open ocean, but "the government of Japan has confirmed that the mature salmon population has increased over the last few years" in northern Japan, Teasley said.

Residents of Shimoda, Kamakura, Misawa, Towada and other

Other Earth Day/Green Day activities this spring

■ **Misawa Fish Port Cleanup, April 16:** Help local residents pick up trash along Misawa city's fishing port and then enjoy a picnic with hamburgers, hot dogs and clams on the shell.

■ **Coloring Contest, April 21-29:** First-, second- and third-grade pupils at Misawa are to draw pictures conveying the Earth Day theme. The artwork will be on display at the base exchange April 21-29.

■ **Misawa Artifacts Display, end of April (exact dates to be announced):** Misawa city will bring a display to base of artifacts uncovered on base from a 4,000-year-old village. The materials, including pottery shards, clay pieces and wood charcoal, were unearthed about two years ago during a construction project near the base fire-training pit. Teasley said the display will be the first time the artifacts have been displayed on base.

■ **Oirase Gorge Cleanup, May 14:** Misawa residents, with Towada City college, local schoolchildren and several agricultural agencies, plan to clean up a section of the Oirase River Gorge about 30 miles from base.

Call the Family Support Center at DSN 226-4735 for more Earth Day event information or to sign up for one of the trips.

— Stars and Stripes

neighboring towns are to release the salmon in buckets starting about 9:30 a.m. Participants then may attend a cultural potluck with giant sushi rolls at lunchtime. Americans are asked to bring a dish to share. "What we try and do is make opportunities for base residents to get out and mix with the local population in situations where they might not normally feel comfortable," Teasley said.

Those interested should call

the Family Support Center at DSN 226-4735.

The symposium is scheduled for April 22 and Japan's Green Day on April 29, Teasley said base officials decided to spread environmental activities throughout the year, noting he works closely with Brent Hefty and Takeshi Ukon of 35th Civil Engineer Squadron and Family Support Center's Anne Turnbull in coordinating the various environmental events.

Email Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Getting a closer look



VAL GEMPPS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Keith Malloy, a precision measurement equipment laboratory technician from the 374th Maintenance Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan, uses precision balance equipment to examine standard weights during a routine check on Monday. The unit develops and sustains precision measurements to ensure traceable, accurate, reliable and safe air and space systems performance.

Pacific students to gather for symposium on science

BY JULIANA GITTILER

Stars and Stripes

Department of Defense Dependents' Schools students from across the Pacific are planning to again gather near Tokyo to explore scientific research during the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

Students in the region have been attending the symposium for more than 20 years, according to DODDS officials.

It introduces students in eighth through 12th grade to original research, science, math and engineering.

Students learn about research and experimentation and the importance of research in human affairs. The symposium helps expose them to academic, industrial and governmental opportunities, officials said.

During the three-day seminar beginning March 21, students will present their research, visit research facilities and complete

for scholarships. Local military and civilian scientists judge the projects and award scholarships to the top winners.

DODDS students from Japan, Okinawa, Guam and South Korea are scheduled to attend.

The symposium is held 30 miles north of Tokyo in Tsukuba City, home to the National Science Foundation and related universities.

Last year more than 125 students participated. About the same number are expected this year, officials said.

In addition to tours and seminars, the students will have hands-on demonstrations, presentations and trips.

The symposium is significant this school year as the DODDS Pacific and Guam districts implement a new science program that includes new course materials, teacher training and a variety of science opportunities.

Email Juliana Gittiler at: gittilerj@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Cold weather breaks records on Okinawa

BY DAVID ALLEN
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — The Japanese have a word for it: *samui*.

That means cold — bone-chilling cold. That's what it's been on Okinawa this past week.

A cold spell that dominated the island over the weekend set a March record for Okinawa. According to the Okinawa Meteorological Observatory, it was just 41.4 de-

grees Fahrenheit on Saturday in Kunigami Village, at Hedo Point in Okinawa's far north.

The reading was the lowest temperature recorded for March since local records first were kept in 1979, said an observatory weather forecaster.

In Naha, the lowest temperature was 48.2 degrees Sunday. For March, it was the coldest day in nine years and the tenth coldest since 1946, he said. And it felt even colder.

"With winds and rain, the temperature felt much lower than what was actually re-

corded," the weather forecaster said. Naha's coldest day on record was 43.9 degrees in February 1947 and January 1967.

The coldest temperature in central Okinawa last weekend was 46 degrees Sunday, said an 18th Weather Flight spokeswoman at Kadena Air Base.

Saturday, the meteorological observatory received a report that a resident in Sashiki, a village west of Naha, had seen hail. And an employee at a Higashi Village lodging facility said a family at the lodge report-

ed seeing hail hitting the windows of their room Saturday night.

"The cold spell over the weekend was a result of a strong cold wave coming down from the North Pole," said Tadashi Zamami, a senior weather forecaster at the observatory.

Zamami said the weekend's cold snap should be the season's last, although the temperature could dip to a mildly chilly 63 degrees next weekend after climbing as high as 71 degrees by midweek.

E-mail David Allen and Chiyomi Sumida at: okibureau@pstripes.osd.mil

Kadena airman jailed for allegedly robbing girlfriend

BY CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CHATAN, Okinawa — An airman assigned to Kadena Air Base is jailed, accused by police of stealing about \$17,000 of equipment from a Mihama tattoo parlor owned by a woman police said was his girlfriend.

The airman also is accused of taking, then releasing, the woman's pet American cocker spaniel, an Okinawa police spokesman said.

The spokesman said Sgt. Jamies Carter, 31, was being held in an Okinawa jail Monday on suspicion of burglary and theft. The spokesman said Carter is suspected of forcing open the back door of the tattoo parlor and stealing 1,642 items worth about 1.8 million yen (\$17,000), including the dog and a fax machine.

An Air Force public affairs spokesman confirmed Carter's name but would not confirm the airman's unit assignment.

The police spokesman said the incident, which occurred early Thursday morning, appeared to be the result of a squabble between Carter and his girlfriend, who owns the business. The store owner reported the burglary to police the same day.

On Friday, she received a phone call from an employee of the Ramada Renaissance hotel in Onna that the fax machine and other items had been discovered scattered in bushes near the hotel.

The hotel employee traced the woman from contact information found on some of the items, the police spokesman said.

Later Friday, as the woman was checking the items found near the hotel, a person subsequently identified as Carter was seen nearby, the police spokesman said.

The shop owner identified Carter, who admitted he stole the woman's property, the police spokesman said. The airman was asked to report to the Okinawa City police station, where he was arrested at 9:15 p.m.

Police sent the case, accusing Carter of burglary and theft, to the Naha Public Prosecutor's Office on Sunday.

The cocker spaniel, which is named Camel and which Carter told police had been released near the hotel, remained missing Monday, the police spokesman said.

E-mail Chiyomi Sumida at: sumidac@pstripes.osd.mil

Kadena class celebrates Women's History Month



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Sixth-grader Alexis Bonnell portrays Amelia Earhart while reading a biography she wrote on the famous aviatrix during a Women's History Month personality performance at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School on Kadena Air Base on Monday. Charlotte McGinn's sixth-grade gifted-education students put on a performance for classmates and family members. McGinn said she chose to hold the event to "introduce some ladies who have made meaningful and positive contributions to society" to the students as part of Women's History Month. Other famous women represented were Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci; underwater explorer Sylvia Earle; scientist Marie Curie; Egyptian queen Cleopatra; actress Helen Hayes; Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Abigail Adams, outspoken wife of John Adams; and heroic British war nurse Florence Nightingale.

Arts center training

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota's Arts and Crafts Center will be closed from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday for staff training. Call 225-9044 for more information.

Spa Day at Misawa

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Home businesses on base as well as groups or individuals are needed to provide services during a "spa day" for spouses of deployed servicemembers March 16.

People skilled in massage, manicures, makeovers and hair styling may call DSN 226-4735 to volunteer or to request more information.

From staff reports

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Road: 'It is a battleground ... without rules or certainties'

ROAD, FROM PAGE 1

Having reported from Iraq for much of the last two years, I was initially dismayed to hear that a fellow journalist having survived the unimaginable stress and fear of being a hostage was then the victim of an American military shooting. But when I learned the incident occurred on the airport road, it became, at one level, understandable.

Bad things happen on the airport road—all the time. Many people who travel it on a regular basis have a personal horror story, a moment when they thought, "this might be it." Everyone else has a friend who has had one.

Since the war, the airport road has not been any ordinary highway. It is a battleground; a place without rules or certainties, a place where there are no guarantees of safety for civilians or soldiers of any nationality.

For the ordinary traveler, there are two hazards: the wary, well-armed American troops who have lost dozens of their comrades to roadside bombs and ambushes on the road, and the insurgents who target the U.S. military convoys that ply the route.

It is a road to be approached with caution, with a plan, with wariness of every other car and every American convoy.

About five hours before Sgrema was shot, I was on the same road, traveling in the opposite direction from the airport into Baghdad with what has become routine wariness. I stared straight ahead and felt a faint nausea.

Most organizations whose employees must travel the route have rules for how to do it. Like most security measures in war zones, they are gospel until the day they don't work. Some people use armored vehicles and have chase cars with armed guards, believing that while they may be conspicuous, at least in an armored car they will survive if insurgents open fire.

Others who are wary that armored vehicles might attract the insurgents will travel only in old Iraqi cars.

No one talks much about the reality that only the heaviest armor (the kind used by the military) can withstand a roadside bomb, and even then not all roadside bombs. Few civilian cars are outfitted with that amount of armor.

I travel in an old Iraqi car, and dress in a black gown and head scarf so as not to attract attention. When a military convoy appears, my driver slows down and waits for it to get at least half a mile ahead before we pick up our pace again. If we get too close and insurgents open fire on the convoy, we fear we may get hit.

As the road slipped by on Friday, I was struck by the calm of the scene, and the security of my suspicions. Were the three children playing in the scrub by the side of the road just in need of a playground, or they had been trained to step on a detonator as a U.S. convoy moves by?

Was the dead goat stuffed with explosives? Could the quiet neighborhood with hardly a car in sight hide insurgents?



Vehicles pass a checkpoint manned by U.S. soldiers on the road leading to Baghdad International Airport.

AP photos

"See, that's where there was an IED," said my driver, Ahmad, using the military's shorthand for improvised explosive device.

"You can see the pit," he said gesturing to a crater. He pointed to the charred shell of a car sitting a few feet off the shoulder. "See that, that's a bomb car," he said.

"Last summer I was here, driving from the airport, and suddenly, 'Boom!' A Humvee ahead of us was hit. I said, 'It's OK, it's OK' and then everyone began shooting the Americans, the Iraqis over there," he said, gesturing to the nearby neighborhood.

One of the mosques near the beginning of the route, Ibn Tamimi, is well known as an insurgent center. When U.S. soldiers searched it, they found rocket-propelled

grenades, ammunition and guns.

Further on is a neighborhood named Jihad and another named Furat, where former intelligence officers from the Saddam Hussein regime live. "Very tough place," declared Ahmad.

Insurgents hide in the neighborhood and scurry out to lay bombs that can be detonated at a distance with cell phones or garage door openers. Sometimes they shoot from the rooftops of houses.

The Americans have tried to make it difficult for insurgents to operate along the road. They have chopped down palm trees and taken down fences that insurgents hid behind. They have put up observation cameras. They have handed out leaflets and warned people who live in the area not to collaborate with insurgents. But insurgents keep finding new modes of attack.

On Friday, a military convoy sped by. We stopped, letting it go far ahead. Next we sighted two SUVs that looked like they might be carrying security contractors. Again we slowed, for fear that insurgents might target them.

Suddenly Ahmad sped up, barreling down the rough highway at nearly 80 mph. My worries about insurgents and skittish U.S. soldiers quickly turned to fear of a car accident as he honked to get cars to move out of the way.

He believed we were being followed. A burgundy car with three men in it was visible in our rear view mirror, speeding close behind us. We couldn't tell if they were armed.

Finally, we lost them and slowed down. As we drew up to our hotel, we saw the car again—it had been the chase car of another news organization. The misplaced suspicion would have been funny, if the situation had not been so dangerous.

The Italians were on the road at a far worse time. Although there are few attacks at night, there is also little visibility, and the U.S. military suspects every vehicle.

Like us, Sgrema must have been frightened of being on the road. But having just escaped from insurgents, I wonder if she ever thought she'd be mistaken for one of them?

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MAST

MAP

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 Time: 5:00-5:00



Some vehicles that travel on the road that leads to Baghdad International Airport pass by the Furat neighborhood, where former intelligence officers from the Saddam Hussein regime live. Insurgents hide in the neighborhood and lay bombs that can be detonated at a distance.

5 Irish war protesters plead not guilty to attacking plane

The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Five Irish war protesters charged with criminally damaging a U.S. Navy transport aircraft pleaded not guilty Monday in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

The five — Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran and Kieran O'Reilly — were arrested in February 2003 inside or near a hangar housing the aircraft, which had been attacked a few days earlier by a lone ax-wielding protester.

The protesters' two alleged incursions into Shannon Airport highlighted grass roots Irish opposition to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and embarrassed the Irish government, which deployed a battalion of troops around the air-

port's perimeter to prevent further incursions.

Ireland, an officially neutral nation, has permitted the U.S. military to use Shannon in County Clare, southwest Ireland, for the past three years as a refueling point for its operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The five facing charges of criminal damage, as well as criminal trespass, could face up to 10 years each in prison in conviction.

They are members of a radical peace group called the Catholic Worker Movement. While three are Irish, Fallon is a Scot and Dunlop is a U.S. citizen. About 200 supporters of the five on Monday staged a march from O'Connell Street, the main

thoroughfare of Dublin, to the nearby Four Courts building, where the trial is expected to last about a week.

The first protester to attack the plane, Mary Kelly, received a two-year suspended sentence Dec. 1 following her conviction for causing criminal damage.

The 52-year-old homemaker had attacked the unguarded plane with a hatchet. She argued that her action was justifiable to prevent the aircraft from going to Iraq.

At her trial, the U.S. Navy crew of the Boeing 737 testified the plane was carrying spare parts to an air base on the Italian island of Sicily — not Iraq.

Sabotage ruled out in C-130 crash

LONDON — The likelihood that hostile fire downed a British transport plane on a 30 in Iraq increased Monday when military officials ruled out sabotage and engine failure in the crash that killed 10 people.

An interim report by the Royal Air Force board of inquiry excluded a range of possible explanations, including lightning, collision with another aircraft or cargo exploding in the crash of the Hercules C-130 transport north of Baghdad about a half-hour after the plane closed in Iraq's landmark elections.

But the panel did not rule out the possibility that

the Hercules, which was on an administrative flight between Baghdad and a U.S. air base at Balad, may have been shot down by guerrillas with a surface-to-air missile.

On Feb. 9, Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, said he believed the British aircraft was downed by hostile action rather than by a mechanical problem. He had also suggested the possibility of sabotage.

The death toll of 10 was the highest for any single incident suffered by the British military in Iraq since the war was launched in March 2003.

From The Associated Press

White House rejects claim that U.S. forces targeted journalist

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday said it was "absurd" for a former hostage in Iraq to charge that U.S. military forces may have deliberately targeted her car as she was being rushed to freedom.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was traveling on one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq, to the Baghdad airport, when it was fired upon. An Italian intelligence officer in the car was shot and killed.

Responding to Sgrena's statement that the car may have been

deliberately targeted, McClellan said. "It's absurd to make any such suggestion, that our men and women in uniform would deliberately target innocent civilians."

"That's just absurd," McClellan repeated.

He said the airport road "has been a place where suicide car bombers have launched attacks. It's been a place where regime elements have fired upon coalition forces. It is a dangerous road and it is a combat zone that our coalition forces are in."

Oftentimes, they have to make split-second decisions to protect their own security.

"And we regret this incident," McClellan said. "We are going to fully investigate what exactly occurred."

Sgrena has said it was possible her car was targeted deliberately because the United States opposes Italy's policy of negotiating with kidnappers.



Sgrena



AP

Afghan refugee women walk inside an abandoned building in Kabul, Afghanistan, where they and other returning exiles are living Friday. Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has appointed the first female provincial governor.

Afghan women set out on quest for political parity

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fifteen Afghan men, heads slightly bowed, file into a crowded living room to greet the recently appointed chief of Bamian province. They sip tea and listen patiently as the new governor holds court.

Such a courtesy call is commonplace in this deeply hierarchical society when someone wins high office — save for one critical difference: On this occasion, the men's respect is directed toward a woman, the first female governor in this Islamic nation's long and tortured history.

Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan is casting off the shackles of fundamentalism that once barred its women from public life, kept girls from school and barred women from working.

The selection of Habiba Sarobi to head the central highland prov-

ince of Bamian is a new milestone, but the governor is the first to acknowledge that it masks a sad reality. "There are equal rights for women on paper. The challenge is to put it into practice in this Islamic nation's long and tortured history," Sarobi said.

For the vast majority of Afghan women, little has changed since the Taliban's ouster, with their daily lives dominated by archaic traditions and grinding poverty.

Since the Taliban's ouster by U.S.-led forces in late 2001, millions of girls have returned to school. And while women are still mostly on the periphery of public life and business, some opportunities have reopened for them.

Women's rights were enshrined in a democratic constitution adopted in early 2004. But skeptics — and even the high-profile women appointees themselves — concede they have little political clout.

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AF lifts Boeing ban on satellite launch bids

BY MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force on Friday lifted a 20-month ban prohibiting Boeing Co. from bidding on satellite launch contracts, saying the company had corrected problems that led to accusations that it stole information from a competitor in 1998.

The Chicago-based aerospace giant was suspended in 2003 and stripped of some \$1 billion in launch contracts after it was found in possession of thousands of sensitive documents belonging to rival Lockheed Martin.

Acting Air Force Secretary Peter Teets said Boeing will reimburse the military \$1.9 million for the cost of investigating the allegations. Boeing also will pay for a special compliance officer, reporting to the Air Force, who will monitor the company's business ethics for the next three years.

"This has been the longest suspension of a major defense contractor, and it demonstrates how seriously we take the issue of procurement integrity," Teets said. "Over the past 20 months, Boeing has taken serious corrective actions."

In July 2003, the Air Force banned Boeing from satellite

launches after concluding that Boeing committed "serious and substantial violations of federal law" by stealing extensive information from Lockheed during competition for a \$1.9 billion satellite launch contract in 1998. The Air Force also took away a series of launches, worth about \$1 billion in revenue, that were to use Boeing rockets, and gave them to Lockheed.

Both companies participate in the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, the military's main system for getting satellites into space.

Under the interim agreement announced Friday, Boeing will be allowed to compete next year when the Air Force holds a competition for a new round of launches.

The Air Force initially awarded Boeing and Lockheed Martin contracts worth nearly \$2 billion over the course of 28 missions from 2002 through 2008. Boeing received the majority of the contracts, many of which were transferred to Lockheed Martin after Boeing was suspended.

Three Boeing employees were charged in connection with the alleged thefts.

"We have worked hard over the past 20 months to restore the trust

Latest F-15 jet passes test flights

BY JIM SUHR
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Boeing Co.'s newest fighter jet has made a successful maiden flight, passing all tests ahead of a ceremonial rollout later this month, the aerospace company's defense unit said.

Chicago-based Boeing has a \$3.6 billion contract with South Korea to provide 40 of the F-15K Strike Eagles from next year through August 2008. The new planes will join the fleet of F-16 jets that now form the backbone of the South Korean air force.

A derivative of the F-15E used by the U.S. Air Force, the F-15K can carry more than 23,000 pounds of cargo, reach Mach 2.5 — two and a half times the speed of sound — and use the latest military technologies, Boeing said.

On Thursday, Boeing's chief F-15 test pilot and

chief weapons systems officer put the jet through its paces, soaring to an altitude of about 50,000 feet, surpassing Mach 2 and accomplishing engine shutdowns and restarts during the hourlong flight.

Coming four days ahead of schedule, "it was a good mission — as good as you can do on your first time out," said Bill Markowski, a spokesman for Boeing Air Force Systems. "The test pilot was really happy with it."

A condition of the deal with South Korea was that the jet components would be made in that country but the final assembly of the jets would take place in the United States.

Shares of Boeing rose \$2.12, or 3.8 percent, to close at \$57.42 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, climbing to the highest level since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks sent the plane manufacturer's commercial airline customers into a deep slump.

and confidence of our customer, and we are grateful that we have reached this point," said Boeing spokesman Doug Kennet.

A Lockheed spokesman declined to comment, citing ongoing litigation.

In addition to the administrative sanctions Boeing has faced, the company is facing separate civil and criminal investigations as a result of acquiring the Lock-

heed papers.

The Air Force has estimated the total cost of shifting launches to Lockheed, building a new launch pad on the West Coast and covering other financial fallout from Boeing's document-gathering has amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Boeing also faces ongoing questions about its relationship with a former top Air Force procurement

official, who has admitted giving the company special treatment.

Darleen Druyn, who later took a job at Boeing, is now serving nine months in prison for violating federal conflict-of-interest laws.

The Government Accountability Office said in separate reports last month that the Air Force improperly favored Boeing in at least two contracts worth a total of \$6.5 billion.

Darmstadt duty's over



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Ryan Bever, left, and soldiers of the 3rd Postal Support Battalion, 1st Battalion of the 129th Military Police, stand in formation during a farewell ceremony Monday in Darmstadt, Germany. The MPs have been in charge of all community law enforcement operations in Darmstadt since December 2003, according to 233rd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office in Darmstadt. Bever was credited with saving another soldier's life last year. Prior to deploying to Germany, the MPs served as field artillery soldiers in the Missouri Army National Guard.

Project aims to save whales from Navy sonar

BY CATHERINE CLABBY
Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer

BEAUFORT, N.C. — After more than 30 whales died during a mass beaching in North Carolina in January, sonar from U.S. Navy ships surfaced as a possible cause. Now scientists are trying to steer Navy vessels clear of such tragedies.

Two Duke University researchers are devising a system intended to predict where and when whales, dolphins and other animals swim off U.S. shores. Navy planners could use it to put distance between some harmful operations and vulnerable animals.

"There's a lot of promise to this approach," said Mardi Hastings, a program officer for marine mammal science and technology with the Office of Naval Research. "It's the only way we can think of that would provide us with predictive capabilities."

Navy vessels, like all ships, pose big dangers to sea mammals, whether they are abundant bottlenose dolphins or endangered right whales. Collisions occur. Explosives and polluting discharges make trouble. And evidence is mounting that sonar, which Navy vessels use to detect underwater threats and navigate, may cause some whales to beach themselves, often with fatal results.

Aboard research vessels and in laboratories, scientists have spent decades collecting data on many of the same sea creatures the Navy sometimes

harms. They are gaining insights to the migration routes and rituals of many species. They know how water temperature, nutrition levels, the routes of the shifting Gulf Stream, even the shape of the sea floor can influence where animals are likely to go.

Using computer power and mathematics formulas, Duke biologist Andy Read and seascapes ecologist Pat Halpin want to combine the best of what's known about the animals to predict where they'll be and when. Neither expects perfect forecasts, but they believe they can help the Navy better understand what's occupying waters stretching from Maine to Mexico.

The federal Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program funded this research project, along with another project focused on waters off the West Coast, to help the Navy comply with laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Hastings said. That law, with some exceptions, prohibits people from harassing, hunting or killing marine mammals.

The East Coast project will cost \$969,000, spent over at least three years. When the project was announced in 2002, it declared its "first priority" as finding a way to deal with risks to whales posed by sonar. Sound waves from sonar are suspected of causing problems for whales, perhaps damaging their hearing somehow or causing them to rise to the surface too quickly and get the bends.

U.S.-led forces bust fishing boat carrying \$30M in hashish

The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S.-led naval forces raided a fishing boat in the northern Arabian Sea carrying 2.6 tons of hashish valued at an estimated \$30 million, the U.S. military said Monday.

Sunday's seizure of the drugs and vessel, a traditional dhow named al-Zahidi, followed coordinated between British and U.S. forces, the Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet said in a press release.

"Drugs are often very directly related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhow."

German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops
multinational task force commander

British frigate HMS Grafton started tracking the dhow Saturday and contacted American guided-missile cruiser USS Ginkbeid Hill which sent an SH-60B heli-

copter to intercept the vessel.

The exact location of the seizure was unclear, as was the nationality of the boat and crew. It was not known how many people

were detained from the dhow, on which was found 128 sealed packages containing a total of 2.6 million tons of hashish.

"Drugs are often very directly

related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhow," said German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops, commander of the multinational task force.

U.S. Bunker Hill deployed Dec. 6 from its San Diego home port and is part of Commander, Task Force 150 that oversees security operations around the Horn of Africa, the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

IN THE WORLD

Italy holds funeral
for intel officer
killed by U.S. fireBY MARIA SANMINIATELLI
The Associated Press

ROME — Some 20,000 mourners paid their last respects Monday at a state funeral for an Italian intelligence officer killed by American troops in Iraq while escorting an ex-hostage to freedom.

Among those honoring Nicola Calipari in the Santa Maria degli Angeli Church were Premier Silvio Berlusconi, President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and other top officials, including U.S. Ambassador Mel Sembler and Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni.

An honor guard slowly carried the casket, draped with an Italian flag, into the church, where the crowd stood to applaud. In the front row, Calipari's widow, Rosa Maria, and relatives gripped each other's hands and dabbed away tears. Several mourners buried their faces in their hands.

"He died as a hero, and I can-

not forget he had also helped to free us," said Maurizio Agliana, one of four Italian security guards kidnapped in Iraq in April.

The 90-minute funeral was carried live on several TV stations, including Vatican television.

Calipari's body had lain in state at Rome's Vittoriano monument after it was returned from Iraq on Saturday night, with tens of thousands of people streaming past the coffin.

"I think it's absurd that things are going this way in Iraq, when people die because of someone else's decision," said 30-year-old architect Gorgia Semprini, who was among thousands of people gathered quietly in the piazza outside the church.

Journalist Giuliana Sgrena, the hostage whose life Calipari saved, said it was possible the car she and Calipari were riding in was targeted deliberately be-



The coffin of late Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari is shoulder-carried during his state funeral in Rome on Monday. Calipari was killed in Iraq when U.S. forces opened fire on the car he was traveling in with freed Italian hostage journalist Giuliana Sgrena on Friday.

cause the United States opposes Italy's policy of negotiating with kidnappers.

Calipari was killed Friday when U.S. troops at a checkpoint fired at the car as it headed to the airport shortly after Sgrena's release. Sgrena, who was abducted Feb. 4 in Baghdad, was recovering in a Rome hospital from a shrapnel wound to the shoulder.

The White House described the

shooting as a "horrific accident" and promised a full investigation.

An autopsy was performed Sunday, and the Italian news agency ANSA quoted doctors as saying he was struck in the temple by a single round and died instantly.

Sgrena said Calipari died shielding her. She offered no evidence to support her claim that the attack was deliberate, and in

an interview published in Monday's edition of the daily *Corriere della Sera*, she said she does not know what led to the attack.

The shooting has fueled anti-American sentiment in Italy, where a majority of people opposed the war in Iraq and Berlusconi's decision to send 3,000 troops after Saddam Hussein's ouster.

Calipari was to be awarded a gold medal of valor for heroism.

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Pullback of Syrian
troops to be done
by end of MarchBY BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — The presidents of Syria and Lebanon on Monday announced that the withdrawal of Syrian troops to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley would be completed by the end of March but deferred a final troop pullout until later negotiations.

The announcement, made after a meeting between Syrian President Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, said Syrian troops will pull back from northern and central Lebanon to the east, near Syria's border.

Following that redeployment, military officials from both countries will decide within a month on "the size and duration of the presence of the Syrian forces" in the Bekaa Valley and establish the relationship between these forces and Lebanese authorities. "At the end of the agreed upon duration for the presence of Syrian forces," the announcement said, "the governments of Syria and Lebanon will agree on completion of the withdrawal of the remaining Syrian forces."

In Washington, a White House spokesman denounced the announcement as "a half measure."

In Beirut, at least 50,000 armed protesters gathered at the central Martyrs' Square to demand that Syria leave, more than double the crowds that attended a demonstration last week that led to the toppling of the pro-Syrian government last week.

Most waved Lebanon's distinctive red and white flag with a green cedar tree, chanting "Syria out!" and repeatedly singing Lebanon's national anthem.

Monday's demonstration marked three weeks since the Feb. 14 assassination of former premier Rafik Hariri that began a peaceful campaign against Syrian control, and the crowd later marched to the site of the bomb blast that also killed 17 others. Some in the crowd carried large photographs of Hariri. One group carried a banner that read, "Today we have one target: To liberate our land."

Shortly after the announcement, five Syrian military trucks loaded with furniture headed east up the Lebanese mountains, apparently the first movement of the pullback. A jeep carrying a general also climbed the road toward the Dair El-Baidar mountain pass that leads to the Bekaa, according to an AP reporter and other journalists in the area.

General: Taliban fighters switching sides

U.S. commander says 30 midlevel insurgents have 'turned themselves in' this year

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thirty midlevel Taliban have turned themselves in to coalition forces this year, a top U.S. commander said Monday, predicting more will follow when the Afghan government announces a reconciliation program for followers of the hardline militia.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Afghanistan, did not identify the insurgents and said the coalition has no specific information on the whereabouts of top-level Taliban, including the supreme leader of the ousted Islamist regime, Mullah Omar.

The 30 Taliban had "essentially turned

themselves in" at coalition bases in the eastern province of Khost and the southern province of Kandahar during the past two months and had been handed over to Afghan authorities for reintegration into society.

None had been detained, and one was now serving as a policeman, Olson said.

Olson was addressing a news conference at the end of his one-year term as chief of operations for the 17,000 U.S. forces hunting Taliban and al-Qaida militants in Afghanistan.

Purported Taliban officials have re-buffed the U.S.-backed amnesty program — which is not open to the top echelon of the militia — and vowed to go on the offensive as the weather improves after a particularly harsh winter.

Olson said coalition forces had targeted cells of mid- and low-level Taliban insurgents. Militant attacks against them had declined over the past year, from 10 to 15 per week in the spring 2004, to around five attacks weekly now — although he said insurgents could step up activity in the coming spring.

"But it seems clear to us given the disjointed and uncoordinated effort that the Taliban has been able to launch, that ... [Mullah Omar] is not exercising effective command and control over Taliban operations in Afghanistan," Olson said.

After Osama bin Laden, Omar is one of the most wanted men by the United States. There has been no confirmed sighting of the militia leader since U.S.-backed forces

topped the Taliban in late 2001 for harboring the al-Qaida leader.

According to news reports over the week-end, three Taliban leaders who were arrested in Pakistan in recent months were handed over to U.S. officials last week. They reportedly included the leader of a Taliban splinter faction involved in the abductions late last year of three U.N. election workers in the Afghan capital.

Olson confirmed that three Taliban leaders were "handed over in Pakistan." He said the three were not under coalition custody and that "we don't have the status of their current location." He did not name them.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Jafar Abbas Jilani, however, said, "We haven't handed over any new prisoners to the United States recently."

Munch pieces stolen, found

BY DOUG MELLGREN

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Three stolen works of art by Edvard Munch were recovered Monday, police said, less than 24 hours after thieves pried them loose from the walls of an upscale restaurant in the second theft of the Norwegian master's work in less than seven months.

Iver Stensrud, of the Oslo police, also said several arrests had been made. He declined to be more specific or say what condition the stolen watercolor and two lithographs were in.

A 1915 watercolor called "Blue Dress" and two lithographs were stolen from the walls of the restaurant near the city of Moss, about 30 miles south of Oslo, late Sunday, Jan. Pedersen, of the local police, said by telephone.

Pedersen said he could not estimate the value of the works. Munch expert and auctioneer Knut Forsberg estimated the paintings' collective value at more than \$257,000, with "Blue Dress" being the most valuable because it is unique.

"It's a big deal in Norway, but it's not exactly a world sensation," Forsberg said. Pedersen said a hotel worker went into the restaurant at about 11 p.m. Sunday night and surprised two people who had removed the pictures from



A police officer collects evidence outside a hotel near Moss, southern Norway, on Monday. Three works by famous artist Edvard Munch were stolen from the hotel Sunday.

the wall. "They dropped one, and broke the frame and glass, but took the pictures," Pedersen said.

The suspects were described as being in their 20s, of medium height and having dark hair.

It was the second such theft of Munch paintings in the Nordic country in less than seven months.

In August, the artist's masterpieces, "The Scream" and "Madonna," were stolen in a brazen daylight raid from an Oslo museum by three armed robbers and have yet to be recovered.

"There are no grounds for assuming any connection between the thefts, but we will be talking to

the Oslo police about it," Pedersen said.

Munch developed an emotionally charged painting style that was of great importance in the birth of the 20th-century Expressionist movement. He died in 1944 at the age of 80.

The hotel's owner, Vidar Salbuviik, said the works were part of a 400-piece collection, including another four by Munch, displayed in the restaurant. The hotel itself is part of an estate that was built in 1767.

The hotel is on the island of Jeley, where Munch lived and worked from 1913 until 1916, when he moved to Oslo.

He said the works are not as famous as "The Scream" or "Madonna," but he added that they were well-known to collectors and Munch aficionados.

The hotel has an alarm system, but it was not turned on since the hotel had not yet closed for the night.

It seems to be a fashion among criminals to steal Munch, Salbuviik told state radio NRK. "How professional is it to steal art? Great value, big risk and hard to sell. They would have to be very slow in the head to do it."

Nigerian police rescue 52 'slave' children from shipping container

BY DANIEL BALINT-KURTI

The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — Dozens of filthy and exhausted children, some as young as 1, covered in a Nigerian police station Monday after authorities discovered them packed into a fishmonger's truck in what police called a failed attempt by child-traffickers to hire the youngsters out as servants or even sell them as slaves.

Police arrested a woman accompanying the 52 children Saturday in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, after police discovered them in a container of a truck that normally transports fish to market, said Lagos state police spokesman Ademola Adeboye.

On Monday, the youngsters sat on wooden benches in a concrete room at an inner city police station in Lagos. Several had no clothes, while others wrapped themselves in soiled lengths of cloth. Officials said they were working to reunite the children with family members. The chil-

dren didn't speak to reporters.

The arrested woman, Fatima Baba, told police she had brought the children from Malawi town in northern Nigeria's Niger state to Lagos to hire them out as domestic servants, said Adeboye.

"According to her, she would get a fee for hiring out the children," he said, adding that police were investigating Baba's claim that the children's families had

A police spokesman said authorities were looking into whether there were plans to sell some into slavery.

consented to the arrangement, and would be paid when the children returned after a year's work.

Five of the children were age 1 to 5. The oldest were 14.

A police spokesman in the capital, Abuja, said authorities were looking into whether there were plans to sell some into slavery.

Police officials said Baba and the driver would be charged only after further investigation.

Twelve adults who shared the container with the children are also being detained, said Adeboye.

Other police officials said earlier that 60 children were rescued and that they were discovered Sunday.

Report: N. Korea children still malnourished

BEIJING — Malnutrition among North Korea children has fallen, but more than a third still don't have enough food and the country needs substantial aid to get through 2005, U.N. agencies said Monday.

The number of malnourished or stunted North Korean children under 6 has dropped to 37 percent, compared with 42 percent in 2002, according to a survey by the World Food Program and UNICEF.

It found that children with acute malnutrition fell from 9 percent to 3 percent.

"Food aid has worked," Richard Ragan, director of the WFP's operations in the North, said at a news conference in Beijing. "Now is not the time to back off from it."

The study assessed 4,800 children under 6 and 2,109 mothers with children under 2.

From The Associated Press

No wool over Prince Charles' eyes



AP photos

Left: Britain's Prince Charles wields steel-bladed shears, which resemble large scissors, to cut the coat of a Merino sheep. He is assisted by former world champion shearer Peter Casserley at Moutere Station in Alexandra, Central Otago, on Monday. Prince Charles is in New Zealand for a five-day visit.

Above: Prince Charles greets Lt. Tamahou Ripia with hongi, a traditional Maori welcome that involves pressing noses, upon his arrival at Government House, Wellington, New Zealand, on Monday. New Zealand, a former British colony, recognizes Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as its monarch. Prince Charles was due to spend Tuesday on official duties in Wellington, then two days in the northern city of Auckland before leaving on Thursday to visit Fiji and then returning to Britain.

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IN THE STATES

U. of Colorado chief to resign amid scandals

BY JON SARCHIE
The Associated Press

DENVER — University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman announced Monday that she is resigning amid a football recruiting scandal and a national controversy over an activist professor who compared victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to a Nazi.

Hoffman, who has been president for five years, told the Board of Regents in a letter that her resignation is effective June 30 or whenever the board names a successor.

"It appears to me it is in the university's best interest that I remove the issue of my future from the debate so that nothing inhibits CU's ability to successfully create the bright future it so deserves," Hoffman wrote.

An independent commission re-

ported last year that Colorado players used sex, alcohol and marijuana as recruiting tools.

And in February, administrators took the first steps toward a possible dismissal of professor Ward Churchill, who likened World Trade Center victims to Nazi Adolph Eichmann.

"I've taken my future off the table so to some extent I can focus my attention on issues that face the university and not on my personal future," Hoffman said in an interview.

She cited the upcoming trial of a civil lawsuit that stemmed from the football recruiting scandal.

Regent Michael Carrigan declined to comment on her resignation.

At least nine women have said they were assaulted by Colorado football players or recruits since 1997.



University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman announced Monday that she will resign.

Just last week, a grand jury said two female trainers alleged they were sexually assaulted by an assistant coach and that a "slush fund" was created with money from coach Gary Barnett's football camp, according to a report leaked to the media.

The grand jury, which finished meeting Aug. 19, handed up a single indictment accusing a former football recruiting aide of soliciting a prostitute for himself and misusing a school-issued cell phone.

A review of Churchill's speeches and writings is being conducted to determine if the professor overstepped his boundaries of academic freedom and whether that should be grounds for dismissal.

Supreme Court limits secrecy in tax cases

BY HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court eliminated some of the secrecy faced by Americans taking tax disputes to the U.S. Tax Court, ruling Monday that factual recommendations in the proceedings must be disclosed.

While the official opinions of the tax court are made public, people are not allowed to see recommendations by specially appointed judges who hold trials in cases involving more than \$50,000, and who also write detailed reports.

In a 7-2 decision, the court said that was wrong, finding it to be a violation of tax court rules. It noted that initial findings made by magistrate and bankruptcy judges in other proceedings are open.

In other decisions, the Supreme Court:

■ Voted 5-3 to limit federal

judges' sentencing power, ruling that judges may examine only plea agreements or defendants' admissions regarding prior convictions, not other evidence, when tacking on prison time.

■ Ruled 8-1 that two Ohio prisoners inmates may file federal civil rights complaints in an effort to get parole hearings denied them by the state.

■ Agreed to consider whether Volvo Trucks North America Inc.'s wholesale pricing policies discriminated against a retailer.

■ Said it will decide whether two Arizona miners may sue federal officials for personal injuries following a roof collapse at a copper mine that left them paralyzed.

■ Declined to consider whether a black truck driver, Tyrone Williams, who is accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants, was improperly singled out for a possible death sentence because of his race.



Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, walks arm in arm with other members of Congress on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on Sunday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. From left are Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.; Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif.; Lewis; Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Rep. Arthur Davis, D-Ala., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

Lawmakers mark historic Selma rights march

The Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. — Rep. John Lewis returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, 40 years after he braved billy clubs and tear gas in one of the grimmest, goriest spectacles of the civil rights movement.

"President Johnson signed that act, but it was written by the people of Selma," said Lewis, who was clubbed on the head during

the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers by state troopers and sheriff's deputies on March 7, 1965. He was among 17 blacks hospitalized as that march was turned back while crossing the bridge.

Participants also included singer Harry Belafonte, who was at the demonstration 40 years ago, and Coretta Scott King, whose husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., led a second march two

weeks later to the state Capitol.

Police estimated the crowd at nearly 10,000. A re-enactment of the five-day march is planned this week, culminating with a rally at the Capitol on Saturday.

Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, such as the use of federal examiners and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007.

with water Dec. 26. Abels had been missing since the disaster.

On Saturday, Abels' family said his remains were identified and are being returned. Todd Musburger, a family spokesman, said a private burial is planned this week.

From The Associated Press

Ill. tsunami victim's remains found

EVANSTON, Ill. — The remains of a 33-year-old Illinois man who died in the South Asian tsunami have been found in Thailand, his family said.

Ben Abels was vacationing on the island of Phi Phi when his beachside bungalow was inundated

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STARS AND STRIPES
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Calif. lawmakers may put lid on high-speed chases

Other states boost penalty

By DON THOMPSON

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — On any given day somewhere in California, a television station helicopter flies low with its camera trained on a speeding car that pinballs through freeway traffic with police cars in hot pursuit.

It's a staple of television news and police procedure that is increasingly ending in death and serious injuries.

According to the California Highway Patrol, the number of chases grew from 5,895 in 2001 to 7,171 in 2003, the last three-year period for which statistics are available.

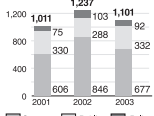
Fifty-one people died as a result of these pursuits in 2003; 18 of the dead were not involved in the pursuit, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Texas had 33 pursuit deaths in 2003, including nine innocents, North Carolina had 23 deaths, eight of them uninvolved motorists, and Florida had 21 deaths, just one of an innocent motorist.

Florida and Mississippi last year enacted laws boosting penalties for fleeing drivers, similar to what California law enforcement groups are proposing this year as the Legislature attempts to deal with the issue.

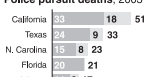
Police chases risky

More than 1,000 suspects and bystanders were killed in police chases in California since 1982, an average of 49.3 each year from 1982 to 2003.

Police pursuit injuries in California



Police pursuit deaths, 2003



SOURCES: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Calif. Highway Patrol

A bipartisan group of legislators is pushing a proposal that would include penalties for police who recklessly pursue drivers.

"I want something that is actually going to save lives," said state Sen. Sam Anestad, who sponsored a failed bill last year that would have limited police immunity in accidents from high-speed chases.

"Probably the worst way to catch someone is by chasing them."

Law enforcement will adamant-

ly oppose stripping away officers' legal immunity, said California State Sheriff's Association Legislative Director Nick Warner and California Chiefs of Police Association President Bill Brown.

Since 1987, police have had what a state appeals court in 2002 termed a "get-out-of-liability-free" law even if police violate their own department's pursuit policy.

But Brown, the police chief in Longwood, the last 10 years, said ending police immunity would "pass the liability on to the police and ultimately to the taxpayer, rather than to the individual who is really responsible."

It also would encourage suspects to flee, Brown said. Anestad is naming his bill after 15-year-old Kristie Priano of Chico, who was killed in 2002 when her family's minivan was struck by an unlicensed 15-year-old who was fleeing police after taking her mother's car without permission.

The victim's mother, Candy Priano, argues that there was no need for a pursuit because police knew where the driver lived. "I blame the people who flee. (But) people who flee do not care about anyone's safety, so the burden of protecting innocent bystanders by necessity falls on the police," Priano said in a statement.

"I blame the people who flee. (But) people who flee do not care about anyone's safety, so the burden of protecting innocent bystanders by necessity falls on the police," Priano said in a statement.

11 of 13 small cars flunk institute's side-impact testing

By DEE-ANN DURBIN

The Associated Press

Detroit — The Dodge Neon, Ford Focus and Volkswagen's New Beetle are among the small cars that got the lowest safety rating in new side-impact crash tests performed by an independent, nonprofit organization.

Eleven of the 13 cars tested earned a "poor," the lowest of four ratings, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said. The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable," but only when they were tested with their optional side air bags. They earned "poor" ratings without the air bags.

Other vehicles that earned a "poor" rating were the Hyundai Elantra, Kia Spectra, Mazda 3, Mitsubishi Lancer, Nissan Sentra, Saturn Ion, Suzuki Forenza and Suzuki Aerio. The results were released Sunday.

The institute's test simulates a severe crash. A barrier designed to resemble the front of a pickup or sport utility vehicle hits the side of the vehicle at 31 mph. A "poor" rating means a

high chance of serious injury in a similar crash.

Four of the vehicles tested — the Elantra, New Beetle, Forenza and Spectra — have standard, head-protecting side air bags. But the institute's chief operating officer, Adrian Lund, said the cars had poor structure that failed to prevent injuries to the torso and pelvis.

Several of the vehicles offer optional side air bags, but the institute will only test those vehicles without side air bags unless the manufacturer provides a second vehicle with the option installed.

Toyota Motor Co. provided the Corolla with side air bags and General Motors Corp. provided the Cobalt and Saturn Ion.

But even when it was tested with its optional side air bags, the Ion got a "poor" rating because the institute said it didn't adequately protect the driver's lower body.

The institute was most critical of the Neon, saying the car performed so poorly that the driver likely wouldn't have survived the crash. DaimlerChrysler defended the Neon, saying it meets federal safety standards and its performance is similar to other small cars.

The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable," but only when they were tested with their optional side air bags.



The Dodge Neon, shown in this Insurance Institute for Highway Safety photo, was the most criticized of the 13 small cars tested by the nonprofit. Eleven of the cars that were entered in new side-impact crash tests received a rating of "poor."

Toxic waste tanker still worries Utah officials

SALT LAKE CITY — Crews early Monday finished pumping toxic waste from a leaking rail tanker car that triggered the evacuation of 6,000 people, but they still don't know exactly what they're dealing with.

Early Monday, residents were back in their homes, the cleanup was under way and most of the closed highways nearby were about to be reopened.

The area downwind of the leak was evacuated Sunday because of fumes from the spill, Fire Chief Steve Foote said. Officials were angered that they could not pin down what was in the tank. The information they were given conflicted with their own observations.

The tanker car's manifest said it was sulfuric and hydrofluoric acids; the company told them it was hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, nitric and sulfuric acids. Late Sunday, the company corrected itself, saying the contents were phosphoric, acetic, sulfuric and hydrofluoric acids, and ammonia — all at a concentration of only 10 percent.

From The Associated Press

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Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES

South Beach Diet researchers help develop school menus

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Nine-year-old Kelly Ferrer no longer gets the waffles, pancakes and sugary cereals that she loved eating for breakfast last year at Mill Creek Elementary School's cafeteria.

This year, instead, she is served whole wheat bread, low-fat cheese and fruit as part of a study by a research center founded by Dr. Arthur Agatston, the author of "The South Beach Diet."

The goal of the study at six schools in this Orlando suburb is to evaluate whether school cafeterias are capable of serving more nutritious ingredients, if kids will eat them and whether students' health improves from better eating.

The program underscores growing concerns across the nation about childhood obesity. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about one out of five U.S. children are obese, a problem that may lead to diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

"We're not putting the children on The South Beach Diet," said Danielle Hollar, deputy director of research at the Agatston Research Institute. "We're trying to provide healthier options for these children and in the long run we hope they learn to eat healthier and incorporate that into their daily living."

Although the 3,000 students involved in the study haven't been put on the low-carb diet per se, many of the diet's guiding principles have been incorporated into school menus.

White bread and white flour products have been stricken and replaced with whole-wheat products. White potatoes were replaced with sweet potatoes. French fries were abolished. Grilled chicken replaced breaded chicken. Fruits have taken the place of sweets for desserts.

Students at the beginning of the school year were weighed, their height measured and their blood pressure and pulse recorded. Those same measurements will be taken in April. The institute has paid for the \$10,000 extra cost.



Nine-year-old Kelly Ferrer sips her low-fat chocolate milk during lunch at Mill Creek Elementary School in Kissimmee, Fla. The school is one of six taking part in a study by a research center founded by Dr. Arthur Agatston, the author of "The South Beach Diet."

"It was a little bit slow catching on but now the students seem to be enjoying the meals," said Jean Palmore, food service director for the Osceola County School District, home of the six schools in the study. Four of the schools have changed their menus and the other two were being used as controls with unchanged menus.

But some critics always will be difficult to please. "I want to go back to the old menu," said fourth-grader Ferrer as she munched on a ham-and-cheese sandwich on whole wheat bread, canned corn and a carrot and pea mix at Mill Creek Elementary School. "We had better food last year."

Study: Aspirin cuts stroke risk in women

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Middle-age women can cut their risk of strokes but not heart attacks by regularly taking low doses of aspirin, and the pills help prevent both problems in women 65 and older, a major study found.

The results are opposite what is known about aspirin, where its benefit for stroke is limited and its ability to prevent heart problems is legendary. Since women proportionately suffer more strokes and men more heart attacks, this is generally good news, specialists said.

Researchers also found that taking vitamin E did no good for women of any age, confirming a study last fall that concluded supplements of this nutrient could even be harmful.

The new information comes from the Women's Health Study, the first rigorous, scientific test of whether long-term use of aspirin or vitamin E made a difference in cardiovascular risk in females.

Previous research has been almost exclusively in males.

Findings were reported Monday at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. They also were being published online by the New England Journal of Medicine and will be in the March 31 print edition.

The study has "major public health implications," said Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the research with the National Cancer Institute.

"In contrast to men, aspirin did not reduce the risk of nonfatal or fatal heart attacks in women of all ages but did so in women over age 65," she said.

The study was led by Julie Buring, Dr. Paul Ridker and others at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Many have been consultants to aspirin makers, but the companies did not run the federally funded study. Bayer Healthcare supplied aspirin for it and the Natural Source Vitamin E Association supplied that nutrient.

In the study, 40,000 female health professionals 45 and older were randomly assigned to take either fake pills or 100 milligrams of aspirin — slightly more than the 81-milligram "baby aspirin" pills commonly sold — every other day.

After 10 years, aspirin users had a 17 percent lower risk of stroke, and a 24 percent lower risk of strokes caused by blood clots, owing, researchers believe, to aspirin's well-known anti-clotting properties.

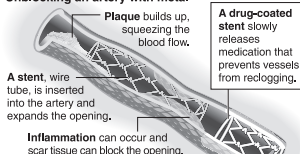
Women 65 and older got even more benefit: They were 30 percent less likely to have a stroke caused by a blood clot and 34 percent less likely to suffer a heart attack.

Aspirin's benefits were greatest for nonsmokers and former smokers, and didn't vary among women who did or did not use hormones after menopause. The study "demonstrates the importance of studying medical therapies among women as well as men," Buring said. "We finally have the evidence base needed for women to make rational decisions about the use of aspirin in preventing cardiovascular disease."

Drug-coated stents open possibilities

Tiny metal scaffolds that prop open arteries and are drug-coated has transformed heart treatment. Nearly nine out of 10 stents used in the United States now are drug-coated.

Unblocking an artery with metal



Source: Food and Drug Administration

AP

Drug-coated stents could prevent bypass surgery

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — New research comparing rival brands of drug-coated, tiny mesh tubes called stents finds they are equally excellent at keeping heart arteries open, and that one may be better for diabetics.

These devices, which slowly leach medication into blood vessels to keep them from squeezing shut after procedures to remove blockages, have revolutionized heart care so much in the last few years that studies now are aimed at finding which ones work best for which patients — not whether they work at all.

They are vastly better than the plain old metal stents that were standard just a few years ago. Results on the new ones are so good that more patients are being successfully treated with them and avoiding a more drastic alternative — heart bypass surgery.

Two are on the market — Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxis stent, and Cypher, made by Cordis Corp., a Johnson & Johnson company.

Natick, Mass.-based Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxis stent was approved last year.

"Both devices have made remarkable progress" in treating

heart disease, said Dr. Gregg Stone, a cardiologist at Columbia University Medical Center, who was not involved in the comparison studies.

New studies on stents were presented Sunday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Orlando. They showed that benefits apparently last for years, and that even very big blockages in very small vessels — some nearly two inches long — can be fixed with such stents, sometimes using overlapping ones.

The devices work so well that when an older stent clogs, it's better to put a new drug-coated one inside it than to treat the problem with radiation as has been done in the past, one study found.

Competitors also are being developed that could help cut the price of these devices. One novel type even dissolves in the body once its job is done.

"It's looking very good," Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist, said of the evidence for drug-coated stents. "The benefit is going to be substantial in the long term."

Clogged arteries can cause a heart attack. One solution is open-heart bypass surgery, in which blood vessels from elsewhere in the body are used to create detours around blockages.

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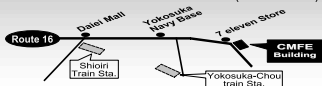


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2 Corinthians 3:17

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Pet reindeer is star attraction in Anchorage

BY RACHEL D'ORO

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Albert Whitehead likes to take his pet reindeer on a regular stroll through downtown Anchorage. The sight, which produces giggles and stares in Alaska's largest city, has endured for more than 40 years by a long line of reindeer, all females named Star.

"My, aren't you charming?" a passer-by gushed as the animal, named Star VI, snuffled the air in search of the homemade bread Whitehead carries in his pockets during their jaunts.

Besides Star's downtown excursions, she participates in parades, visits schools and pulls youngsters on sleds. In fact, all the Stars have been big on civic duty.

"That's not something you see every day," Russ Widener, of Syracuse, N.Y., said a few blocks away as he snapped a photograph then moved in for a closer look at the frisky 4-year-old reindeer.

Whitehead helped care for Star's predecessors, and he said the current reindeer is probably the friendliest of them all — having been raised exclusively

by humans after being abandoned by her mother at birth.

Star VI was born in April 2001 at a reindeer farm north of Anchorage. Her young mother never connected with the fawn, which was initially named Noel by the previous owner. Because of her tenuous beginning, Star is rather petite — standing 4½-feet tall, a half-foot shorter than average for her age.

A pet reindeer may raise a few eyebrows, but the tradition began in 1962 when Anchorage pioneers Oro and Ivan Stewart got the first Star from a Native reindeer herder. As with every subsequent Star, the reindeer had a little tuft of white on her forehead.

Whitehead, a young soldier stationed at Fort Richardson, had befriended the Stewarts by that time, sometimes helping out at their downtown camera shop.

He left the state, but returned a decade later with a family of his own. Whitehead also resumed his friendship with the Stewarts, which involved walking Star I — outings that are still vivid in the memory of Whitehead's son.

"Growing up with deer was really cool," said Bryan Whitehead, 35. "I don't know how it would be like not to have one."



Albert Whitehead walks his pet reindeer Star VI across the Park Strip in downtown Anchorage, Alaska.

Connecticut man charged after helping terminally ill ex-Marine commit suicide

BY CARA RUBINSKY

The Associated Press

CORNWALL, Conn. — Any of the dozen friends caring for John T. Welles could have been there the morning that the 66-year-old decided to take his life.

Welles, a fiercely independent former Marine and inventor, had not seen a doctor in decades and did not know he had prostate cancer until three weeks before killing himself on June 11, 2004.

Those caring for him said he made no secret of his plans.

Now, 74-year-old Huntington Williams is charged with manslaughter for helping fulfill his dying friend's wish. The case has galvanized residents in Connecticut's bucolic northwest corner, even though legalizing physician-assisted suicide doesn't seem on the state's horizon.

"Hunt just happened to be there at the time. I don't think anybody would

have wanted to trade places with him," said Cornwall official Gordon Ridgway. "They can go beyond what happened in five minutes to realize Mr. Welles was critically ill, that it was his wish to die on his own terms and not become a vegetable, and that Hunt was there to help him."

If convicted, Williams faces up to 10 years in prison. He was next expected in court on Friday.

Though there are no statistics on assisted suicide, the issue has sparked a legal debate nationally. In the past five years, people in Michigan, Maryland, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Rhode Island have been charged with helping friends or relatives kill themselves.

In Oregon, the only state where doctor-assisted suicide is legal, 171 terminally ill people have died after taking lethal doses of medication. The Bush administration has challenged the law, which has so far been upheld by federal courts. The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to hear the case.

Many residents of Cornwall, a town of 1,300, have rallied to support Williams. Connecticut has not considered legalizing physician-assisted suicide, but a state lawmaker has introduced a bill that would allow probation in assisted suicide cases.

The morning Welles died, Williams relieved a friend who had spent the night with the dying man.

"John needs to do this. Are you able to do this with him?" the friend asked Williams, according to an affidavit.

Williams, a volunteer emergency medical technician and retired high school teacher, had watched his wife, Rebecca, die of ovarian cancer a decade ago. He replied that he could "honor John's wishes."

He cleaned Welles' 38-caliber revolver and carried it outside.

Smoking a pipe and leaning on a walker, Welles headed to the front yard. The men shook hands and Williams walked down the driveway.

Before Williams could say "God bless," he heard a gunshot.

Boeing ousts CEO over affair

CHICAGO — Boeing Co. abruptly forced out its president and chief executive officer, Harry Stoenepicher, for what the company said Monday was a violation of the company's code of business conduct stemming from a relationship the married, 68-year-old Stoenepicher had with a female Boeing executive.

Stoenepicher is the second CEO to depart the airplane maker and defense contractor in disgrace in the past 15 months. His predecessor, Phil Condit, resigned Dec. 1, 2003, as a result of the defense contracting scandals.

Physicist Bethe dies

ITHACA, N.Y. — Hans Bethe, one of the last of the giants of 20th-century physics, who played a pivotal role in designing the first atomic bomb and won a Nobel Prize for figuring out how the sun and other stars generate energy, died Sunday at 98.

During World War II, he was a key figure in the building of the first atomic bomb as head of the Manhattan Project's theoretical physics division at Los Alamos, N.M.

Ill. tsunami victim's remains found

EVANSTON, Ill. — The remains of a 33-year-old Illinois man who died in the Asian tsunami have been found in Thailand, his family said.

Ben Abels was vacationing on the island of Phi Phi when his beachside bungalow was inundated with water Dec. 26. Abels had been missing since.

From The Associated Press

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Stewart back to work, without ankle bracelet

BY SARA KUGLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A beaming Martha Stewart returned to work on Monday, blowing a kiss and waving as she arrived to speak to cheering employees.

After five months in prison and a week-end spent more comfortably at her 153-acre suburban estate, Stewart spoke to staff at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. in Manhattan as members of the media looked on.

"All of you are my heroes," Stewart told the crowd.

With barely a pause since she was released from a federal women's prison in Alderson, W.Va., on Friday, Stewart addressed a staff diminished by layoffs in her absence. Although her company's stock has recovered from its low following her conviction, its price has fallen roughly 19 percent since her release early Friday — wiping away more than \$300 million in the company's market capitalization.

In trading Monday afternoon, shares of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia fell \$2.90, or 9.4 percent, to \$27.85 on the New York Stock Exchange. The stock has traded in a 52-week range of \$8.25 to \$37.45.

"It's really wonderful to be back. I've missed you, as you can imagine. I've thought about you every single day," Stewart said.

The several hundred employees gave Stewart a standing ovation and applauded several other times as she spoke.

Stewart, 63, said she had had "the tremendous privilege" of meeting a cross-section

"It's really wonderful to be back. I've missed you, as you can imagine. I've thought about you every single day."

Martha Stewart

of people in prison and "learned a great deal about our country."

Dressed in a fashionable black suit, Stewart held up the gray and white poncho she wore when she left prison on Friday. She said it did not come from a fancy store but was crocheted by a fellow inmate.

"The night before I left she handed me this... and said, 'Wear it in good health,'" Stewart said. "I hope she is reading the news and looking at television because I'm so proud of her."

She also poked fun at her reputation as a perfectionist and promised to share credit with her employees in the future.

"I don't always do all of my own ironing, even though I wish that I could. I love ironing," she said. "What I want everybody to know is that I have been supported all of these years by all of you... I am extremely proud of each and every one of you."

Investigators, counting on a positive bounce from Stewart's return, have bid up her company's stock to triple the level it was when she was convicted on March 5, 2004, of lying about a stock sale.

Still, the company is struggling. Last week, it reported a fourth-quarter loss of \$7.3 million, compared with a profit of \$2.4 million for the same period a year earlier — reflecting

continued declining magazine advertising revenues and the hiatus of its syndicated daily cooking show starring Stewart.

Stewart will have to make some adjustments in her new working life. She will be answering to a new chief executive and president, Susan Lyne, who replaced longtime confidante Sharon Patrick last November. Lyne greeted Stewart with a hug before the speech.

She also will eventually be required to show up to work with an electronic ankle bracelet under the terms of her five-month home detention. She was not wearing one at her appearance on Monday.



During a meeting with her staff Monday at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. in New York, Martha Stewart holds up the poncho, crocheted by a fellow inmate, that she wore as she left the women's federal prison in Alderson, W.Va.

Accuser's brother called to testify at Jackson trial

BY TIM MOLLOY

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — The younger brother of Michael Jackson's accuser told the jury in the singer's child molestation trial Monday that Jackson showed him and his brother Internet sex sites during a visit to his Neverland ranch in which they slept on his bed and the pop star slept on the floor.

The account by the 14-year-old boy added to confusion about the prosecution's timeline of the case, however.

The boys' sister testified earlier that her brothers slept in Jackson's room during their first night to Neverland. The new witness said he and his brother slept with their father on their first night there and slept in Jackson's room later.

Jackson, 46, is accused of molesting the then-13-year-old boy — a cancer survivor — at Neverland, giving him alcohol and conspiring to hold the family captive in 2003.

It was unclear when the visit involving the alleged Internet viewing and shared bedroom occurred.

The brother said that first they looked at the Internet and then watched episodes of "The Simpsons."

"Michael told us not to tell no one what we did — not to tell our parents what we did," he testi-

fied.

The brother said that Jackson's assistant Frank Tyson and Jackson's children Prince Michael and Paris also were present.

The boy said that at one point while looking at an image of a woman's breasts Jackson joked, "Got milk?"

He said at another point Jackson whispered in the ear of his sleeping son. Using a vulgar term for female anatomy, Jackson allegedly said, "You're missing some..."

The brother figured by his hands as he testified and acknowledged during questioning by District Attorney Tom Sneddon that he was nervous.

The boy testified that Jackson gave him the security code to enter his bedroom without setting off an alarm and that he later acquired another code for all the locks at Neverland from a security guard.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. contends the boys used the codes to run amok at Neverland and enter rooms without permission.

Earlier in the day, the jury heard an audiotape in which the accuser's siblings and mother effusively praised the "King of Pop" as a father figure who took them in after years of abuse by the mother's ex-husband.

The tape was used by Mesereau in an attempt to impeach the credibility of the accuser's 18-year-old sister by trying to show inconsistency between her testimony and other statements.

"At that point I still liked Mr. Jackson and I was just latching onto something," she said of her comments on the tape.

"I had 16 years of abuse and I didn't know what a father was,"



News anchor Dan Rather rehearses on the CBS "Evening News" set in New York. After 24 years at the anchor desk, Rather plans to make his final broadcast Wednesday.

Will Guard story overshadow Dan Rather's 50-year career?

BY DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As his final evening newscast approaches on Wednesday, Dan Rather is seeing the indignities pile up as quickly as the roses that were tossed in the path of Tom Brokaw when the NBC anchorman stepped down late last year.

The latest came in a New Yorker magazine article, where fellow CBS News legends Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace talked about how difficult it was to watch Rather as an anchor.

The embattled Rather is left fighting for something largely beyond his control — his reputation.

Will his role in last fall's discredited story about President Bush's military service ultimately overshadow his remarkable 50-year career? "With the passing of time,

that immediate sourness will pass and people will say, 'God, Rather did that for 40-plus years,'" said Tom Bettag, a former Rather deputy who is now executive producer of ABC News' "Nightline." "When you get paid a lot of money, like a basketball player, people don't realize how hard it is. The amount of effort he poured into what he genuinely believed was a public trust was stunning."

Often, however, last impressions are the lasting ones.

"It is going to loom large," said Alex Jones, director of Harvard University's Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy. "Over time, this is something that will be put in better perspective, especially if he has another chapter in his career."

Rather leaves without a victory lap. America's most popular anchorman in the 1980s, Rather and

the CBS "Evening News" have been "third in the ratings behind NBC and ABC for several years. In a relatively slow news period, the CBS ratings have declined twice as much as its ABC and NBC competitors this season.

CBS hasn't decided who will ultimately replace Rather — Bob Schieffer begins as a temporary stand-in Thursday — and management hasn't consulted the outgoing anchor during its deliberations.

In a series of evening news reports leading up to his departure, Rather has tried to keep the focus on the stories he's reported for CBS, a long list that dates back to President Kennedy's 1963 assassination. He wants to be remembered as a hard-bitten reporter who wasn't tied to the anchor desk, and CBS recently distributed a timeline of his career that's a travelogue of world hot spots.

FACES

Texas wallflower comes into bloom

BY SUSAN CARPENTER
Los Angeles Times

When Tift Merritt saw "Grammy" as the subject of e-mail after e-mail last December, her first reaction was, "Oh. Someone we know must have been nominated." The idea that she had been selected just didn't seem likely.

But there the 30-year-old Texas native was, in the big leagues, with her Southern-fried "Tambourine" competing for best country album against country institution Loretta Lynn and chart-toppers Tim McGraw, Keith Urban and Gretchen Wilson.

Known chiefly as a critics' darling, Merritt was clearly the dark horse in the race, so she wasn't surprised when Lynn was called on stage at Los Angeles' Staples Center Feb. 13 to pick up the Grammy — and not just because of Merritt's low profile.

The singer-songwriter may live south of the Mason-Dixon line and be signed to a Nashville label, but the strum and twang of "Tambourine" are leavened with soul and sprinklings of gospel in a style Merritt calls a "rock-soul throw-down."

If it is country music, it's heavily footnoted with complementary styles. The part of the country genre she most identifies with is its classic storytelling.

"That storytelling is what I'm concerned with," she explained over a cup of tea recently in a Hollywood hotel restaurant. "In a lot of ways, what feels so special about the nomination is that somebody thought beyond what it was."

"Tambourine" is the follow-up to Merritt's critically acclaimed 2002 debut, "Bramble Rose," a slower, more introspective record that stuck to her roots and clearly defined boundaries. More down-tempo than upbeat for most of its 51 minutes, the CD was a warm introduction to Merritt's fragile trill.

Raves in tastemaker publications, from the New Yorker to Rolling Stone, helped keep Merritt on the road for a year, but it was during that time that she began to feel constrained by the tenor of her first batch of songs.

"Our live shows have always had a lot of energy," she said. "When we were touring with 'Bramble Rose,' I felt like what I wanted to do next was a show where every night I could come off stage feeling like I'd just left a part of myself [up there]. I wanted to make something as sincere and genuine and from me, but I wanted to do it in a way

Country singer Tift Merritt has arrived

Texas native Tift Merritt earned a Grammy nomination for the colorful, soulful album "Tambourine."

Los Angeles Times

that was loud, more like church or a party."

She's succeeded, on the album and in her recent live shows. During a performance last month at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, backup singers and a quivering organ were perfect accompaniment to Merritt, who was as charismatic as a preacher. And some of her songs have such an uplifting spiritual tone that they would be welcome at a revival meeting.

Oozing Southern charm with her quick wit and casual banter, Merritt had an easier time than many in winning over the traditionally stoic L.A. crowd.

Here's an artist who clearly loves the

stage and appreciates the rapt attention of her audience, but it took years before she felt comfortable in front of a crowd.

"Bramble Rose" was recorded with the same musicians she'd played with for six years. But the singer wanted to take her sound to a new level with "Tambourine," and she did it with the help of producer George Drakoulakis, who has worked with other rock/country hybrids, including the Black Crowes and Tom Petty.

Musically, "Tambourine" leans heavily on rock and soul, but lyrically it's pure country. Before pursuing music Merritt was an aspiring fiction writer, and it shows

in songs that could be novellas if they weren't delivered with a guitar.

All of her lyrics are complicated human dramas, most of them romantic. In stories that unfold on buses and in hotels, they explore love from all angles.

"I think it's really easy for all of us to preoccupy ourselves with easily available dramas that are less than the truth," Merritt explained. "I try to write about what's important, to say what I really mean. I don't have the kind of mind that can take everything in at once. I want to sit with something and think about it. The details are what make things passionate. You can't see them if you're too close."

Cher sues music publisher

Singer and actress Cher is suing Warner/Chappell Music Inc. for breach of contract on claims that it failed to pay royalties estimated at more than \$250,000.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleges that the music publisher has not paid song and performance royalties for the last four years.

The other plaintiffs include Chastity Bono, the daughter of Cher and her late husband Sonny Bono, and Christy Bono, Bono's daughter from his first marriage.

Other plaintiffs are Mary Bono-Baxley and her children Chianna and Cesare Bono. It was not immediately clear whether she is Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, who married ex-minor league baseball player Glenn Baxley in 2001.

Singing duo Cher and Sonny Bono had reached written agreements in 1965 and 1966 for recording services with York Records and Atlantic Recording Corporation that required them to pay royalties and provide an accounting of

the payments, the suit said.

Oprah on Vanity Fair's best dressed list

Oprah Winfrey's La Perla sweats — and the rest of her self-described "classic, fun and relaxed" look — has earned her a spot on the Vanity Fair best dressed list for a second year in a row.

"The key to elegance is not just wearing beautiful things but making what you're wearing come alive," she tells the magazine for its April issue.

Also on the list again are Sofia Coppola, Kate Moss, Queen Rania of Jordan and actress Sienna Miller. Miller says Edie Sedgwick is her fashion icon, and she picks Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and fiancé Jude Law as the most stylish men.



Winfrey

Law, who says he looks like a "messy schoolteacher," also made the list, along with Andre 3000, newscaster Anderson Cooper, musician Charlie Watts and director Wes Anderson.

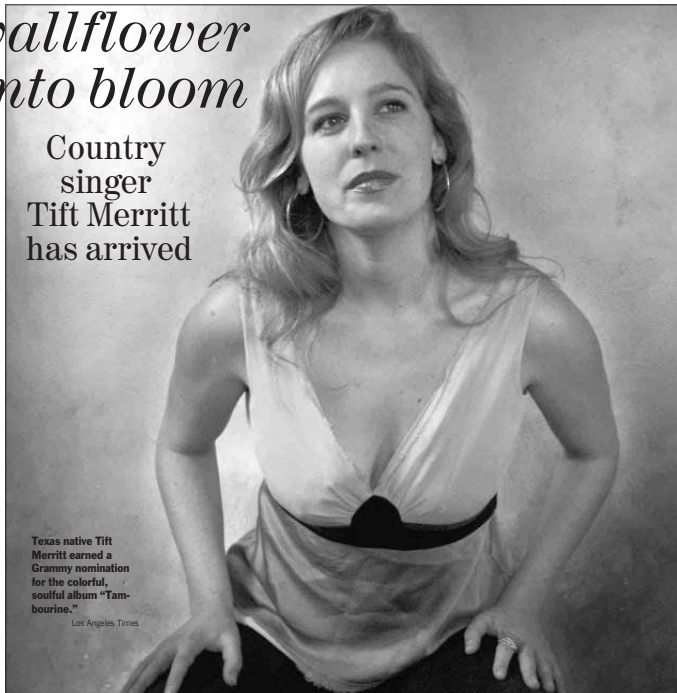
Sri Lankan musicians trying to raise funds

Sri Lankan musicians are trying to rally stars such as Elton John, Madonna and Ricky Martin to record an album to raise relief funds for countries hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Asoka Gunawardena, spokesman for United Artists of Sri Lanka, said the group hopes to release "One Nation, One World, One Love" on March 26.

The Sri Lankan group has contacted Western music industry representatives to try rallying stars to contribute to the 18-song album, he said. Money from CD sales will be used to build schools in tsunami-ravaged countries and for a monument in Sri Lanka.

From The Associated Press



WEDNESDAY EVENING / MARCH 9, 2005

MOVIES

• SPORTS

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P •ESPN Pacific Report (CC)	Pacific Report (CC)	7:30p Show "The 70s Show" Jay Don- ne and Eric be- come callu- (CC)	Arrested develop- ment SEC releas- es some money (CC)	Extreme Malakou: New Edition Hardin Family The Hardin family home gets an additional room. (CC)	Lost "Raised by Another" Jack, Kate and Charlie begin to wonder if Elaine's nightmares are coming true. (CC)	Pacific Report (CC)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman (CC)			
7	AFN-AT (5:46) Oprah Win- frey (CC)	(3:51) Guiding Light (CC)	(1:17) General Hos- pital (CC)	Headline News Nightline (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)				The Sylvester & Buzz Lightyear of Star Command (CC)		
8	NEWS The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	Nightline (CC)	•SportsCenter (CC)	•NBA Basketball Teams to be Announced, (Taped)	•NBA Basketball Teams to be Announced, (Taped)	•SportsCenter (CC)						
9	SPORTS The Simpsons Homer opens a bar in his garage. (CC)	Everybody Loves Raymond The love escalates. (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	National Geographic Explorer (CC)	Friends Monica's restaurant gets a bad review. (CC)	Seinfeld A birth control crisis for Elaine. (CC)	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
10	AFN-FA Family Oodles (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	Even Stevens (CC)	Kenan & Kel (CC)	Gilmore Girls "Here's the Rub" (CC)	Degrassi: Next Generation (CC)	The Cooley Show Home Improve. (CC)	Touché by an Angel (CC)				
11	AFM Attractions (CC)	Ent Tonight (CC)	"E!s World" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"Agent Cody Banks" (2003) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)	"The Hot Chick" (2002) Action Series (CC)
12	14M MacDonald, Peter Gallagher. A hand grabs a couple's sexual insecurities to play. (CC)	Zoom "Stuck in the City" (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) (CC)
13	25 SHOW (4:25) *** "Seven Years in Tibet" (1997) (CC)	City Confidential (CC)	American Justice (CC)	The Great Best Mystery! Man convicted of mur- dering family in 1970. (CC)	American Justice (CC)	The Great Best Mystery! Man convicted of mur- dering family in 1970. (CC)	American Justice (CC)	The Great Best Mystery! Man convicted of mur- dering family in 1970. (CC)	American Justice (CC)	The Great Best Mystery! Man convicted of mur- dering family in 1970. (CC)	American Justice (CC)	The Great Best Mystery! Man convicted of mur- dering family in 1970. (CC)
14	DISC To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
15	TFC (1:15) TV Patrol World	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)	Yes, Yes Show (CC)
16	CNN+ Low Dobbs Tonight	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)	CNN Daybreak (CC)
17	GOLF •4:30 European PGA Golf Dubai Desert Classics - Final Round (CC)	•Golf Central (CC)	•Golf Channel Academy (CC)	•Golf With Style (CC)	•Big Break II (CC)	American Morning (CC)	•Golf Central (CC)	•Golf Channel Academy (CC)	•Golf With Style (CC)	•Big Break II (CC)	American Morning (CC)	•Golf Central (CC)
18	TLC In a Fix "Access This" Making a wheel- chair accessible space. (N)	While You Were Out (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)	Atlanta: Docada in the Rear "Designer Chicago Docada is put to the test." (CC)
19	TOON Powerpuff Girls (CC)	Dexter's Laboratory (CC)	The Courage of the Cowardly Dog (CC)	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (CC)	Justice League (CC)	Titan Titans (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon (CC)	Samurai Jack (CC)	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (CC)	Justice League (CC)	Titan Titans (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon (CC)
20	ANPL The Jeff Corwin Experience "Morocco A Time Machine of Sand" Uncovering the secrets of Morocco. (CC)	Animal Cops Houston (CC)	Exotic Cat House "Raid on a dog house, house contains more than 100 cats." (CC)	Animal Cops Houston (CC)	Exotic Cat House "Raid on a dog house, house contains more than 100 cats." (CC)	Animal Cops Houston (CC)	Exotic Cat House "Raid on a dog house, house contains more than 100 cats." (CC)	Animal Cops Houston (CC)	Exotic Cat House "Raid on a dog house, house contains more than 100 cats." (CC)	Animal Cops Houston (CC)	Exotic Cat House "Raid on a dog house, house contains more than 100 cats." (CC)	Animal Cops Houston (CC)
21	COM Crank Yankers (CC)	South Park (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)	Chappelle's Show (CC)
22	NOCA Elmer calls a bus (CC)	Snake Wranglers (CC)	Paradise tree (CC)	Croc Chronicles (CC)	Dogs With (CC)	Stewie (CC)	Insects From (CC)	Yankee (CC)	Paradise tree (CC)	Croc Chronicles (CC)	Dogs With (CC)	Stewie (CC)
23	SPKE The Hoop Life "Of Human Bondage" (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)	Curly and grandma crime (CC)
24	FOX That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)
25	BET •5:00 The Jacksons: An American Dream (N) (2:1-5:3) (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)	Club Comic View (CC)
26	COURT NYPD Blue "Hand Job" Clark tries to protect a police friend from incor- porating a murder. (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)	Cops "Coast to Coast" Decoy (CC)
27	STR-UD The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	Star News Focus (CC)	Friends (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)
28	LIFE •5:15p "Silk Hope" (1999, Drama) Farnsworth, Ashley Crow, Brad Johnson. A woman fights to prevent the sale of the family farmhouse. (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)	The Nanny C.C.'s (CC)
29	ABC-FA •6:00p *** "Baby's Day Out" (1994) Joe Mantegna. A kidnapped infant leaves his captors on a wild ride. (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)
30	HIST Modern Marvels "Sub-Zero Tech" How people cope with sub-zero climates. (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)
31	STR-IM •6:45p *** "The Beast" (1988) (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)	Modern Marvels (CC)
32	ADV 1 •6:50p Action Alaska Challenge (CC)	Game for it (CC)	Total Adventure (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)	Alaska Challenge (CC)
33	MTV Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica (CC)
34	NICK Austria: The Last Arabians (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CC)

Morning
10:30 Korean Drama: Lovers in Paris
(4)

Afternoon
12:30p Nash Bridges (12/17)
1:30p U.S. Movie (1996): Blood and
Will (2002/12)
2:30p U.S. Movie (1996): Blood and
Will (2002/12)

Evening
7:00p News (1)
7:30p Live Oliver Brown (30/10/ends)
7:50p Japan Pro Wrestling 2004 (1/4)
7:55p Sports Rules (3)
10:00p News (1)
10:30p America's Top 40 (42)
1:20p Japan Pro Wrestling: Exhibition Game
- Yumirin Giants vs. Hiroshima
(4)

1:28p Soccer: UEFA Champions
League - Chelsea vs. Barcelona
(8)

2:30p Tokyo Sports House (4)

JAPAN TV-B57

Morning
7:00p News (1)
7:30p News (1)
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9:15 Economic News

10:00 U.S. Documentary: Marketing

Agencies in U.S.

11:15p NBA: New Jersey Nets vs. San

Antonio Spurs

1:30p U.S. Documentary: Pipeline be-
tween Caspian and Mediter-
ranean (7)

2:15p Asian News

3:15p Amazing Sports

5:15p Asian News

5:15p World News

5:15p World News

5:15p World News

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5:15p World News

Evening

7:00p News (1)

7:45p U.S. Movie (1997): L.A. Confiden-
tial (23)

10:05p TV Series: Allies 2

12:00p U.S. Movie (2000): Erin Brockov-
itch (21)

Morning

7:30p O'Jays No. 46

8:00p U.S. Movie (1982): A Woman of
Pine (21)

9:50p U.S. Movie (1982): The Verdict
(21)

Afternoon

12:00p TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene In-
vestigation

1:00p Swiss Movie (2003): Robert
Cappin in Love and War (1:30)

5:30p O'Jays No. 46

Evening

7:00p News (1)

7:45p U.S. Movie (1997): L.A. Confiden-
tial (23)

10:05p TV Series: Allies 2

12:00p U.S. Movie (2000): Erin Brockov-
itch (21)

6:00 U.S. Movie (1992): The Gold
1:30p U.S. Movie (1992): The Gold

7:40p U.S. Movie (2003): The Matrix Re-
loaded (2:30)

10:00p U.S. Movie (1998): Buffalo '66
(2:00)

12:00p U.S.-Japanese Movie (2003):
The Brown Bunch (1:30)

1:35p U.S. Movie (2002): Unbreakable
(1:50)

5:35p British-French-Canadian Movie
(2003): The Last Days of Disco (1:25)

Evening

7:00p News (1)

7:45p U.S. Movie (1997): L.A. Confiden-
tial (23)

10:05p TV Series: Allies 2

12:00p U.S. Movie (2000): Erin Brockov-
itch (21)

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(21)

Afternoon

12:00p TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene In-
vestigation

1:00p Swiss Movie (2003): Robert
Cappin in Love and War (1:30)

5:30p O'Jays No. 46

1:00 Pimp My Ride

1:30p U.S. Movie (1992): The Gold

2:00p Pure Music

3:00p Top Choice

4:00p News Special: Sumatra Tsuna-
mi (2:00)

5:00p U.S. Top

6:00p M-Side Wednesday

7:00p Asia Aid: Sumatra Tsunami

8:00p Asia Aid: Sumatra Tsunami

9:00p Asia Aid: Sumatra Tsunami

10:00p Making the Video: Lindsay
Lohan (1:30)

10:30p Making the Video: Lindsay
Lohan (1:30)

11:00p Making the Video: Lindsay
Lohan (1:30)

11:30p Making the Video: Lindsay
Lohan (1:30)

12:00p Making the Video: Lindsay
Lohan (1:30)

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Lohan (1:30)

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Lohan (1:30)

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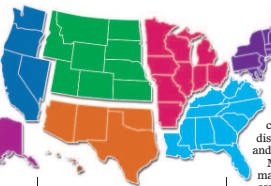
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5 condors released

AZ VERMILION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT — Five California condor fledglings hopped from a release pen in northern Arizona and tested the air of freedom with their huge wings.

The birds are the latest release of the endangered species in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, just south of the Utah state line. The release adds to the wild population of the bird that two decades ago was on the verge of extinction.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Victims hiding addresses

RI PROVIDENCE — Secretary of State Matthew A. Brown wants to allow people deemed to be victims of domestic violence or hate crimes to hide their address from the public.

People would be able to shield their addresses in numerous state and local records including voting lists, business ownership papers, driver's licenses, property deeds, civil and criminal court files and professional licenses.

The only requirement of people seeking to hide their addresses would be to make a sworn statement to Brown's office that they are victims.

High-tech license

WV CHARLESTON — The state Division of Motor Vehicles is rolling out a high-tech driver's license later this year in an attempt to reduce fraud.

The new license will include fingerprint images, face-recognition technology and other security features.

Commissioner Doug Stump says all 21 DMV regional offices should have the new technology by October.

Rocket disappoints

AK ANCHORAGE — A rocket launched for aurora research from Poker Flat Research Range malfunctioned and crashed north of Fairbanks.

Wreckage from the rocket was spotted in the rocket range's impact zone in the White Mountains. Range manager Greg Walker would not give a specific location for the wreckage. Under normal conditions, the payload would have flown for 40 minutes, peaked above the Arctic Ocean coastline and fallen on the polar ice cap, Walker said.

The 70-foot, 2-inch four-stage Black Brant XII rocket reached an altitude of about 18 miles high and flew for five minutes before crashing.

High-tech trash can

NY NEW YORK — The city is testing a high-tech trash can that uses solar power to sense when it is full and then automatically compact the garbage inside.

The BigBelly can's tryout began Feb. 14 in Chinatown and then was moved to Tribeca on Feb. 28, city sanitation department spokeswoman Taryn Duckett said.

Duckett said it's too early to tell whether the functions are advertised. The city decided to try out BigBelly because manufacturer Westborough, Mass.-based Seahorse Power Co. Inc. offered it.

Finches dropping dead

MN ST. PAUL — Call it nature's nasty trick.

This winter, common redpolls — small red-capped finches that flock at feeders — have swarmed into Minnesota from Canada, delighting birdwatchers.

But in the past three weeks, birds have been dropping dead near feeders all over the state, victims of salmonella.

People are being urged to remove finch feeders, clean them with a mild bleach or vinegar solution and not replace them for a while to force the birds to forage more widely, lessening the spread of the disease.

Drug discount cards

OR SALEM — A new program designed to help Oregon's seniors save money on prescription drugs has begun mailing cards to those who signed up.

Program officials say thousands more are eligible.

The card allows seniors to purchase prescription drugs at negotiated discount prices from participating pharmacies.

Baby left at hospital

MA BOSTON — A newborn girl was surrendered in



Candle for cousin

Mercedes Bryant, 4, lights a candle for her missing cousin, Jessica Lunsford, during a candlelight vigil held in Morrow, Ohio, at the home of Angela Bryant, Lunsford's mother.

what officials are calling the first successful test of the safe haven law enacted last fall.

The healthy infant was turned in by a parent at an unspecified hospital in the Merrimack Valley, an official said. The baby was later discharged from the hospital and placed in a foster home.

Monteiro said no other information would be released because of privacy concerns. But she said the baby was the first surrendered since Oct. 29, when Massachusetts became the 47th state to allow parents to leave unwanted newborns at certain locations without legal ramifications.

Sprucing up rest areas

VA RICHMOND — Virginia lawmakers have earmarked \$20 million in funding to help spruce up or replace aging highway stops before Jamestown's 400th anniversary brings crowds of tourists to the state.

"We had to do something," said Sen. Charles R. Hawkins, R-Pittsylvania and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. "It just got to the point of being a disgrace. If you plan to invite people to your home, you have to give them a place to stop and rest."

For more than five years, people have complained about the condition of many of Virginia's 41 rest areas and welcome centers.

Lost Alamo flag

TX DALLAS — The only flag known to have survived the Battle of the Alamo has been found on display at a museum in Mexico, more than a decade after Mexican officials said they had lost it, a newspaper has reported.

Several flags reportedly flew at the Alamo during the March 1836 battle between a small band of Texas fighters and a Mexican army 10 times their number. All except one flag was destroyed.

More than a decade ago, Texas officials stepped up efforts to get the flag back, but the Mexicans said they had lost it.

A reporter from The Dallas Morning News recently found the flag at Mexico's National History Museum.

It now rests in a glass case alongside 19th-century rifles. The once-blue rectangle of silk has faded to dirty white, but the gold fringe is intact and an eagle still spreads over the words "God & Liberty."

Goat meat-cocaine trade

PA MOUNT PLEASANT — Four men stole, killed and butchered a goat so they could trade its meat for crack cocaine, police said.

Authorities charged the four men with theft, receiving stolen property, cruelty to animals and criminal conspiracy for the Dec. 24 incident in Bulksin Township, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

James Walter Albright, 37, dragged the 4-year-old pygmy goat from its pen with a rope and tied the animal to a shrub, where he and Charles W. Smith Jr., 20, killed the animal by beating its head with a hammer or a steel pipe, police said.



Pretty in pink

Two-year-old Haley Ho catches her umbrella in Palo Alto, Calif.



Waiting for spring

A rather round and robust robin sits in the afternoon sun looking for berries in the snow in Lancaster, Pa. The sight of robins has been leading some locals to hope for an early arrival of spring-like weather.



Just a little push

Myisha Heinen is pushed by her friends, Haley Haines left, and Alena Burnstein as the 9-year-old girls play on a swing in Prairie Village, Kan.



Cruising Daytona
A couple on a three-wheeled motorcycle cruise on Main Street in Daytona Beach, Fla. Bike Week 2005 is expected to draw half a million bikers to the ocean side city famous for its white sandy beaches.



Showing his spirit
Fans with faces painted with the United States flag cheer during a Davis Cup tennis match at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.



National anthem auditions
Chris Stafford, of Canton, Ohio, sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" inside an empty Jacobs Field as he, and others, audition for the chance to sing at a Cleveland Indians home game sometime this summer. The auditions were just one of a number of activities held at the stadium as part of an open house.

Flushed out by cops

AR FORT SMITH — Getting tanked has a whole new meaning for a woman on the lam. Brandy Shante Moss, 19, decided that police wanting to talk to her about a domestic dispute complaint would never think to look in a septic tank.

They did. Officer Danny Baker found Moss in her hideout and stepped on the tank to arrest her.

The tank collapsed on Moss, injuring her badly enough that she had to go to the hospital.

Baker and his colleagues responding to the call said they saw a man and a woman run from a house to an abandoned one nearby. The woman, Moss, found the septic tank behind the abandoned house.

After being treated, Moss was booked into the Sebastian County Jail on suspicion of fleeing apprehension and two counts of third-degree domestic battery. She also had warrants for arrest on probation and failure to comply with a court order.

Beach takes pounding

NJ VENTNOR — A beach rebuilt last year as part of a \$24 million shore protection project has taken a pounding from recent storms. Waves have carved out 4-foot cliffs of sand from a barrier dune and damaged walkways and fences. Officials estimate that the storms removed about 300,000 cubic yards of sand, or a fifth of the total used in Ventnor.

Adoption scam

AL WETUMPKA — Cherish Tarbox and her mother, Jenny Lodge, pleaded guilty to using Tarbox's infant twins as bait in an adoption scam. Police said Tarbox, 20, and Lodge, 42, scammed five prospective adoptive couples out of more than \$17,000 by offering to allow them to adopt the twin boys if they paid for medical and other expenses.

Janitor leaves gifts

IN AMO — A janitor has left \$80,000 to the school where he worked almost 15 years. Jack Eggers, who died of a brain tumor in January 2004 at age 69, left more than \$200,000 to several causes, including Mill Creek West Elementary School. He retired in November 2003 and occasionally would visit to read to the children.

Husband charged

MD ELKTON — A husband was charged with his wife's death after police found her 81-pound body on a soiled mattress inside a bedroom where she had allegedly been confined for years.

John Joseph Dougherty, 52, had allegedly kept his wife, Mary Elizabeth Kilrain, 46, locked in a bedroom since she had an aneurysm in 1999 and began to constantly yell at her children, charging documents said.

He also allegedly told his daughters — ages 10, 13 and 16 — to lock their mother in the bedroom after they visited her, the court papers said.

Dougherty called police after one of his daughters tried to give Kilrain water and found her dead, police said.

Officers arriving at the home in Elkton, about 50 miles northeast of Baltimore, found her lying on a mattress surrounded by moldy food, excrement and a broken cane likely used to bang against the locked door, court papers said.

Dougherty was charged with involuntary manslaughter and abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult family member. He was ordered held at the county jail on \$350,000 bond, police said.

"It was one of the worst scenes I have ever seen in my 27 years of law enforcement," said Detective Sgt. Bernard Chiominto, of the Cecil County sheriff's office.

The daughters were placed in a foster home, Chiominto said.

Rare sheep sighting

WI ELKHORN — Game warden Tim Price had to see it to believe it when a woman reported she saw a wild bighorn sheep near the interstate in Walworth County.

"I thought she was a nut," Price said. "Ironically enough, that very next day I was on Peak Station Road and I thought, 'That's a bighorn ram.'"

The sheep has been seen numerous times since November roaming in Walworth County. It may be a wild bighorn or it may be another species of sheep. People have described it as a brown animal with curled horns and a white butt.

Norma Botma and her friend Lauri Paddock were driving to Milwaukee from Elkton on Dec. 16 when Paddock saw the animal near Walworth County Trunk D and Interstate 43.

"I said, 'It looks like a bighorn sheep,'" Botma recalled. "When we came home and told Lauri's husband, he thought we both had been drinking."

Snow record approaches

CO DENVER — Colorado is heading into the traditionally snowiest period of the year with its best snowpack since 1997. Recently, the statewide snowpack was at 109 percent of the 30-year average, the best for this time of year since the five-year drought began. In the northwestern corner of the state remains on the national drought map. Ten states rely on the Colorado snowpack for water.

Budgetary success

VT MONTPELIER — School districts enjoyed moderate success at winning approval of their annual budgets at town meetings, according to Jeffrey Francis, executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association. Of 246 budgets that have been decided, 226 passed, 19 failed and consideration of one other was deferred. Another six budgets were reduced before they passed.

Pastor voted out

IN MARION — A pastor who insisted his first firing was invalid has again been voted out by members of the church. However, his attorney is questioning whether a handful of people who didn't vote could have changed the outcome.

Of 99 Grace Missionary Baptist Church members, 50 voted to remove the Rev. Ed McDowell, while 46 chose to retain him. Three members abstained.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Quality eroded with E-5 bump

[In regard to the March 3 article about automatic promotions for Army E-5s (Corporals, specialists) to pay, on promotion list," Korea edition, "Army to put 19,000 E-4s on promotion list" Japan edition,] I feel compelled to give not just my opinion, but the opinion of many concerned noncommissioned officers as well. That this is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem that has been looming over the heads of the NCO corps for quite some time is an understatement. Yes, the Army needs more sergeants and, yes, there are qualified people out there who can give those slots. But Retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell's opinion that commanders expect soldiers to meet a higher standard than that of the Army is ridiculous. If Purcell is referring to the minimum standards as being time in grade, time in service, then he is not part of the solution, but part of the problem.

The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer is what I and other NCOs live by, and such statements as "I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as 'The Backbone of the Army'" give credence to the fact that the NCO corps is not a club or a pay grade but a way of life—a way of life that I and many other NCOs are proud to be a part of. The way to solve any problem is to simply state the facts.

The underlying fact with the lack of, or decrease in, junior soldiers going to the barracks is twofold. It's not their commanders; it's the motivation of the individual soldier and the lack of mentorship on the part of our leaders. Quite a few young soldiers have the perception that the Army owes them something, or that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease," or that making soldiers promotable only adds to that attitude.

Second, because we have already been sending soldiers to the promotion board simply because they have met time in grade, time in service requirements (under the direction of many unit commanders), the NCO corps is check-fall of weak leaders who neither mentor nor guide their junior soldiers down the pathway to success.

The solution lies with the NCO corps as we have it. It is our job as leaders to mentor and guide our soldiers so that they can take our place and be successful. If the "Backbone of the Army" plans on filling its ranks with marginal or substandard soldiers, if we are going to be so foolish as to accept quantity over quality, then we can only expect our standards to decrease as well as the desire and drive of the individual soldier. I hope that those who have made this decision realize the damage inflicted by opening up the "promotion floodgates."

Not every soldier has what it takes to be a leader (NCO). Leaders are not made, they are born, and anyone who would tell us the desire and drive of the individual differ between a leader and a manager.

I am not looking for a soapbox or a sounding board. I am looking for a little common sense to be applied, especially in matters of such significance as promotion

Tell us what you think

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to the ranks of the noncommissioned officer.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Byer
Logistics Support Area Anacoanda, Iraq

Object to Navy 'objector'

No doubt the column written by Pablo Paredes ("A conscientious objector speaks out," Feb. 28) will invoke sparks of passion amid our proud military members all over the world. Paredes states that part of the reason he has come to the conclusion he no longer wants to study warfare is because he is Catholic. I'd like him to remember that one of the bloodiest and most tragic eras of human history occurred because of religious beliefs: the Crusades. What Paredes has done is a disservice to his shipmates, his service and his country.

I have no pity for Paredes and believe he should spend the rest of his life repaying his debt to the Navy. For when he called upon him to defend his country, he covered back and refused. How dare he. The Navy invested tens of thousands of dollars on Paredes to do his job. He just came along for a free ride and should pay for his actions.

1st Lt. Ed Adams
Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Mission isn't a surprise

This question is in reference to the statement by Pablo Paredes ("A conscientious objector speaks out," column, Feb. 28) and to all conscientious objectors in general. Why did you join the armed services if you did not want to fight?

When you joined, you took an oath that you would defend this country, and to do so solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me

God. I swear (or affirm) that I am fully aware and fully understand the conditions under which I am enlisting."

You knew what you were getting into. You should have known that the armed services fight to defend the American people and country.

I understand that you may not want to fight, respect your opinion, but you should have known that the armed services fight to defend the American people and country. If you didn't want to fight, you should have joined the State Department.

Michael Sanders
Yokota Air Base, Japan

'Doonesbury' a 'counterweight'

This is in response to Col. John Crook's March 2 letter ("Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap'") denouncing the "Doonesbury" comic strip as a left-wing "piece of crap." "Doonesbury"—whatever its faults—is a decades-old, highly regarded, Pulitzer Prize-winning work of political satire.

In Stars and Stripes it stands as a counterweight to the frequently mean-spirited and simplistic right-wing diatribe that characterizes the upstart "Mallard Fillmore" strip on the adjoining page. Put the two of them together and, guess what, you have freedom of speech and diversity of opinion. Isn't that what the opinion pages of a newspaper are supposed to encourage?

Nicholas Stiglitz
Okinawa

'Doonesbury' has its place

Respectfully, Col. John Crook ("Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap,'" letter, March 2). As an American, I am glad our "newspaper" of the armed services includes "cartoons" that left-wing-subconscious-slandering piece-of-crap comic. What path would we be taking if we had removed everything that didn't agree with us?

I also am irritated when "Doonesbury" gleefully attacks the Republican Party and ignores Democratic Party failures, but that is why the comic is in the Letters to the Editor section instead of the comics. Really though, should we pull "Foxtro" because it may teach our children to be sassy? How about "Beetle Bailey"?

Master Sgt. Robert Tebben
Seoul

Strip amuses other readers

After reading the March 2 letter "Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap,'" all I can say is: "Wow, I wanted to say more, but the presence of polite company made me refrain."

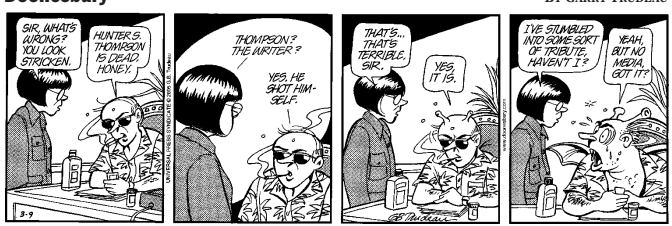
Apparently the "gentleman" who penned it doesn't quite get that "Doonesbury" and its opposite-page counterpart "Mallard Fillmore" aren't there for his amusement. They're placed on the page for me. Because I have a sense of humor. And only half as inflated an ego.

Also, notice if you will, my use of quotation marks around the word "gentleman" so that people can tell my letter was sarcastic, as was the letter writer with "newspaper." Aren't I clever? No?

Staff Sgt. Louis Stutz
Camp Foster, Okinawa

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Ten Commandments divisiveness on display

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

When public officials decide to post the Ten Commandments in public places, they often stress the religious significance to a Christian nation. But when they defend these monuments in court, they push religion into the background and make elaborate, but often faulty, arguments about the secular importance of the commandments in American history.

Last week was no different as the U.S. Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of a 6-foot-tall granite monument on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, Texas, and Ten Commandments plaques in two county courthouses in Kentucky.

Mathew D. Staver, defending the Kentucky plaques, stressed that there were "really, very few" religious words in the Ten Commandments. An incredulous Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fired back, "Have you read the first four commandments when you say that?"

The Supreme Court's task is not to decide whether Ten Commandments displays in general violate the First Amendment, but, rather, where to draw the line between displays that are constitutional and those that are not.

Not all displays abridge the First Amendment's bar to "an establishment of religion." Certainly, the Su-

preme Court itself need not sandblast the mural of Moses and the Ten Commandments from the courtroom's east wall. The mural is a piece of art depicting the great lawgivers of history, from the Babylonian King Hammurabi to Confucius to Napoleon to Mohammed

Just as clearly, on the other hand, the First Amendment does not permit former Alabama Supreme Court Judge Roy Moore to place a 2.6-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Supreme Court building, virtually turning the rotunda into a religious sanctuary.

The Texas and Kentucky displays lie somewhere between those extremes. The Texas monument is one of 17 on the Capitol grounds, scattered among tributes to Confederate soldiers and pioneer women.

Like a similar monument on the Missouri Capitol grounds in Jefferson City, it was donated by the Fraternal Order of Eagles as part of a promotional campaign by Cecil B. DeMille for his 1956 movie "The Ten Commandments." The settings of the Kentucky plaques also have been secularized over the years with the additions of copies of the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact.

What separates the constitutional from the unconstitutional display — size, location, proximity to other historical artifacts, or the statements public officials make

when erecting the displays? The justices appeared to be struggling for answers. Except, that is, for Justice Antonin Scalia, for whom the answer was easy. The Ten Commandments, he declared, is "a symbol of the fact that government derives its authority from God."

But the justices likely to cast the deciding vote weren't so certain. "It's so hard to draw the line," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy asked at one point why an atheist couldn't just "avert his eyes" at the Texas monument. But he also stated it was obvious that the main value of the displays was their "religious purpose."

Although the Kentucky plaques are much smaller than the Texas monument, they also are harder to defend; the Kentucky counties proclaimed that they were posting the commandments to support Judge Moore, to demonstrate "America's Christian heritage" and to emphasize Jesus Christ's role as "Prince of Ethics."

The Kentucky counties subsequently added other texts, emphasizing that the commandments "influence is clearly seen in the Declaration of Independence." In fact, there is no link between the commandments and the declaration, nor were the Ten Commandments mentioned during the Constitutional Convention. Yet the Kentucky counties argued that adding secular elements to the Ten Commandments display cured any constitutional problems.



If the court buys this reasoning, it would drag Ten Commandments cases the way of creche decisions finding Nativity scenes standing alone on a courthouse staircase unconstitutional, but ones joined by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman on the courthouse lawn secular enough for prime time.

Justice O'Connor seemed to consider age a possible criterion for approval, suggesting that preservation of an "old object" might be a nonreligious justification for a Ten

Commandments display. That would have the practical advantage of not requiring bulldozers to remove big granite monuments from the middle of town squares.

A majority of Americans believe in the principles of the Ten Commandments, but that doesn't give government the right to force-feed them to the minority — whether atheists or pantheists or Buddhists — that does not. And the transparent ploy of diminishing the commandments' religious significance in an attempt to gain the court's approval of public display insults their very sacredness.

Taking steps to understand what service means

BY NANCY Y. BEKAVAC

Every morning at sunrise, I walk my large mixed-breed dogs through my small college town. There's a dreamlike quality to most mornings. I've gotten to know my neighbors' gardens and trees. Sometimes I choose the route for specific reasons. One recent day, it was for the flowering cherry that had just opened, and the last of the crab apple blossoms. The dogs were snuffling in the ivy when I heard a group of strong young voices calling out a marching cadence.

There's a ROTC unit at this cluster of small colleges. As I walked south, they came toward me, running in formation on the street, three or four abreast, mostly short-haired men, but there were some women with pony tails. They wore gray "ARMY" T-shirts, black shorts and orange web belts. The lead officer, a chesty 40-year-old, responded to my "Hello," and he and the group ran in place to let me and the dogs cross in front of them. As they passed behind me, a woman's voice called out the next verse, and then they all repeated it: "If I die in a combat zone, put me in a box and ship me home."

Their rubber soles hit the pavement with a dull thud as they jogged slowly past. As I reached the far corner, I tried to get hold of my feelings. Only one of them was likely to have seen a combat zone, and I bet none of them had ever looked into "a box."

I teared up suddenly and my chest contracted, remembering my first sightings of body bags on the tarmac in South Vietnam, where I was working as a reporter in 1970. When I was in high school, I'd seen the coffins of young military men and women arriving at the funeral home my family ran in

Clairton, Pa. The coffins, accompanied by soldiers, were uncrated from their shipping cases and put on a bier.

I remember the faces of the families, stunned and puzzled, when they faced the coffins, the sound of muffled sobs and the women wringing their hands and handkerchiefs, if they were older, or tissues for the younger ones.

Then I was brought back to the present by the next cadence: "Put my medals on my chest, tell my mom I did my best."

They ran off, and I lost their sound as the dogs tugged me along. I was blinking fast, remembering those funerals in that other small town, where I had grown up, as friends and ministers gathered to try to console the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters. My brothers would help the fami-

ly members into the cars for the trip to the cemetery, and I stayed behind to clean.

The young people I encountered on the street that day could not know or imagine those long-ago scenes, except perhaps as television films or news clips or photos in newspapers.

Surely, they must think, those scenes could never be about them, or their friends or families; surely their circle of family and buddies would never blink back tears in the morning light as the trumpet sounded taps, or hug the folded flag the soldier handed to them.

My walk continued, toward the bakery and my morning circle of friends, coffee and gossip. Behind me, those shining young people, beautiful in their strength and sure in their purpose, were being molded to defend

me — to defend us. Surely, I want none of them harmed — no boxes, no medals, no weeping mothers. But surely I want to be secure, to have all of this protected. If I will that end, must I will that means?

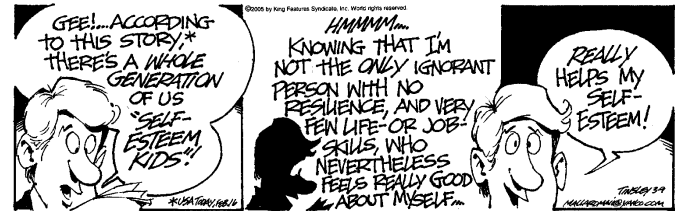
It is no answer to say those young people "volunteered" — what do they know about alternatives? What other way can they afford their expensive colleges? How else can they feel they are serving their country?

This is a very pleasant small town. Once they ran past me, there was no mark that those young soldiers had been there. It would be pleasant to put them out of my mind, to put all that is going on in our name out of my mind, as we do every day. It would be pleasant and wrong.

Nancy Y. Bekavac is president of Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

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Horoscope

The day gets off to a fabulous start, until that kink in the plan — this look oddly familiar. It's easy to blame your spouse, friends or the powers that be for the problem that keeps returning to your life like a boomerang. The sun, moon, Venus and Uranus all transiting psychic Pisces lend great intuitive powers if you turn inward for the truth.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9) It's one of the most joyful years once you determine where to apply yourself. When you happily contribute to someone in the next 10 weeks, you light up a life — and so are in touch with your deep need to help others. The social swirl uplifts you in April and May. New training in August improves finances. Love signs are Aries and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A beatific scene has you wondering: Is this the calm before the storm? Yes, it is. So get your load tea, sit on the deck, prop up your feet, and enjoy the fine "weather" while it lasts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The demands of family and work are a bit heavier than usual. Deep breathing will help you get perspective. Silly things diffuse stress — Gemini and Aquarius are experts at making you laugh.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Put yourself in a challenging position. When you trust yourself to adapt and cope, you gain confidence. That's why learning new words or following new interests makes you strong in totally unrelated areas of life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Loved ones relate their situation to you, and your opinion rises quickly to the surface. To speak or not to speak — that is the question. It is nobler to bear the slings and arrows of a loved one's reaction than to stay mum.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Everything goes right if you feel good. You don't have to pop vitamins to follow

the principles of holistic health. The bottom line is, nutritious food and enough exercise improve your mood and attitude.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You have a one-track mind. The caper is all planned out. Now, can you convincing pull it off? Probably better than most. But with a Sagittarius or Leo by your side, it's as good as done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're highly impressionable today. Too much mainstream media will have you focused on fear and negativity. Spend your

precious moments in nature, with animals or reading inspirational material.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Cleave to your humanity. The imperfections you see in your brothers and sisters are the very ones you have the power to fix in yourself. That doesn't stop you from being irritated, but it might stop you from acting out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're in the habit of thinking of yourself as a free agent, but someone close to you is in the habit of trying to pin you down. It used to be flattering, but now, you're busy practicing the moves to get yourself out of the hold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You love a jittery tap dance in your heart. The temptation is to give your power away by blindly following that oh-so-charismatic someone. Of course, you already have all the answers you need. Trust yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your style is so distinct that you train people to go to you for what they need because no one else will do. New clients, customers and sources of income are featured.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

There's much going in your favor, but your need for introspection may cause you not to see it like everyone around you does. No matter. As Carl Jung said: "Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes."

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Holday Mathis



precious moments in nature, with animals or reading inspirational material.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



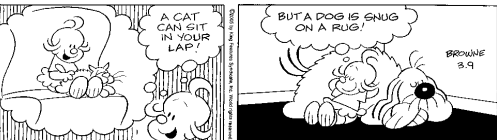
Zits



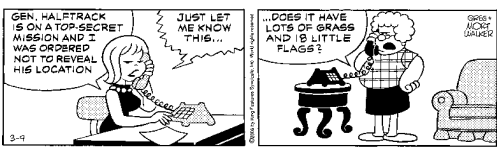
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



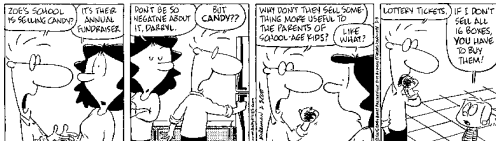
Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



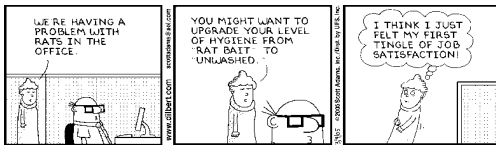
Spider Man



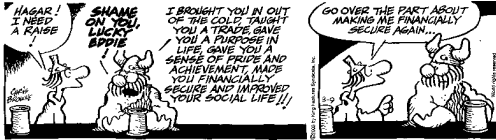
Blondie



Dilbert



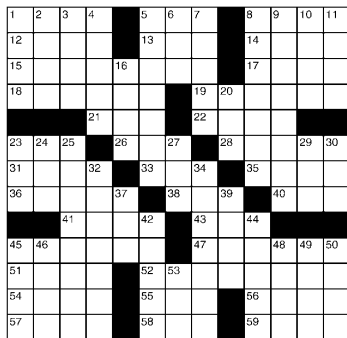
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Deeds

5 "The Amazing Race" aid

8 Blue hue

12 Entice

13 Raw rock

15 "SNL" alumna

16 Nora

17 Pulpit figure

18 Anatomical network

19 "A Streetcar ..." role

20 Earlier, poetically

21 Spread seed

22 Galvanizing material

23 Back talk

26 Ring decision

28 Macabre cartoonist Wilson

31 Journey

33 Perch

35 Host Jay

36 Pants material

38 Diary

40 Disencumber

41 Appear

43 Pigeon's comment

45 Subtle distinction

47 Man's home?

51 Wan

52 Major's precursor

54 "Got it"

55 Stolen

56 Pavlov's offering

57 "Hawaii Five-O" star Jack

Down

1 European range

2 Brusque

3 Genealogy chart

4 Crofts' partner

5 Mostly shaved melody

6 Exist

7 "White Men"

8 Near the kidneys

9 Beverage, often

10 Golden Rule word

11 From the start

16 What a stent will

20 Predetermine

23 British "Inc."

24 Rage

25 Medium-sized dog

27 Lubricate

29 Singer DiFranco

30 Head movement

32 Intoxicated

34 Harpsichord

37 Bumped into

39 Capricorn

42 Legends

44 Felix's roomie

45 Apprehend

46 "And what — rare as ..."

48 By way of, to bards

49 Maui mementos

50 History chapters

53 Go like a bunny

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-9

CRYPTOQUIP

JAN CGC VTUNZ JR YNVXN
JAN PRXCNCJ, LGJ TAN
IRGCZ KJ ZKIIPGYJ JR

TAVUN JAN AVLKJ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POST OFFICE BURNED DOWN, I PRESUME IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A CASE OF BLACKMAIL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

New HIV strain should sound alarm

Dear Abby: The recent news of a possible new strain of HIV that is drug-resistant to three of the four classes of anti-HIV drugs and may progress to AIDS in months rather than years, should provide a wake-up call to those who are not practicing safer sex and/or are still sharing needles and syringes.

Time after time, I hear young people say they're not worried about being exposed to HIV/AIDS because, should they get infected, they can take the appropriate medicine and they'll be fine. Unfortunately, they could be dead wrong. If they become infected, the medicines they will have to take can cause serious side effects and must be taken for the rest of their lives. Also, not all people benefit from the medications, especially those who are unfortunate enough to be infected with a strain of virus that's already resistant to one or more

classes of drugs.

Abby, people need to understand that HIV is not spread through the air, or from shaking hands or hugging someone who has the virus. If you have unprotected sex or share needles and syringes you could become infected. It's up to all of us to protect ourselves and our partners.

Dear Abby



— Mervyn R. Silverman, M.D., Former President, American Foundation for AIDS Research

Dear Dr. Silverman: I agree that it's critically important for folks to protect themselves and their loved ones from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). In order to do that, they must act responsibly. I hope the announcement will remind everyone about a subject that seems to have been forgotten in the last decade.

Dear Abby: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I have

been struggling with my weight for two years. I have tried Weight Watchers and other weight-loss programs, and I try not to eat between meals or consume a lot of junk food — but I just can't stop.

My parents keep pressuring me to lose 40 pounds. Even my friends say I look like weight. They say if I do, my crush would notice me more. Can you give me any tips for losing weight?

— Chubby in Cleveland
Dear Chubby: Everything has a price. If you want to lose weight, the price you'll have to pay is abstaining from high-carb, high-fat, empty-calorie food for a while.

Losing weight is like banking: If you eat more calories than you "spend," you'll have fat in your "savings account." If you spend more calories than you save, you'll gradually become lean and mean.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VAREN

VOYEC

GLUTLE

RAYLEY

www.jumble.com

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUAIL JUDGE PETITE CHALET

Answer: Know to leave when teenagers have their friends over — PEACE AND QUIET

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Aronson



Now arrange the circled letters to the Surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Carefully suggest ADD treatment

Dear Annie: My son-in-law might have ADD. He exhibits nervousness and impulsive behavior. While having a conversation with him he is not really engaged but instead is formulating his next question, which is often totally off-topic. He makes off-the-blue, off-the-wall comments.

Several years ago, my daughter was asked about the possibility that her husband had ADD, and she admitted he might, but nothing was done with that information. Given the recent television awareness campaign for adult ADD and the emergence of new drugs as a possible solution, it would appear there could be a way to improve the lives of my daughter and son-in-law. Can I tactfully suggest that my daughter revisit this issue, or should I just let it be?

— Caring Father

Dear Caring Father: That TV campaign is paid for by a pharmaceutical company, and it has its

Annie's Mailbox



own agenda to promote. Your son-in-law may not have ADD, but if you feel you must do something, give your daughter the address of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (www.add.org). P.O. Box 543, Pottstown, PA 19464, and tell her she might want to check it out. The rest is up to her.

You are treading a fine line between caring and interfering, but you know that. A lot depends upon how likely your daughter is to listen to you, and how receptive her husband will be if she brings up the subject. Please allow her to handle it.

Dear Annie: I soon will be 16 years old, and I have many close friends whom I e-mail almost every night, including one who lives in Texas and another in Hawaii.

I usually get on the computer and instant-message after finishing my homework, but lately, my

dad has been coming into the room, saying he wants to send some e-mails. I know his e-mails are important, so I give him the computer to do his work, but afterward, he sits and plays Solitaire for a really long time. I can't get back on the computer for hours, and my friends are often asleep or busy by then.

I don't know what, exactly, to say to my dad. I know his e-mails take precedence, and there's nothing wrong with Solitaire, but my friends are important to me, and I'm starting to miss them.

— Alone, But Not Lonely

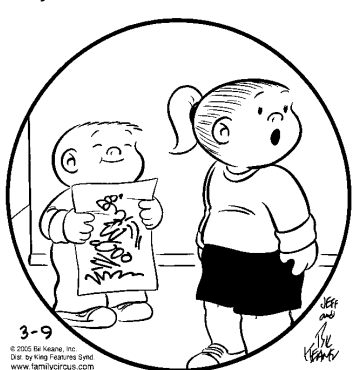
Dear Not Lonely: There's no reason Dad can't work out a schedule so you each get to use the computer.

Here's how to say it: "Dad, could you please set aside a specific time when I can use the computer every night? I promise when the time is up, I will get off immediately so you can use it."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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Family Circus

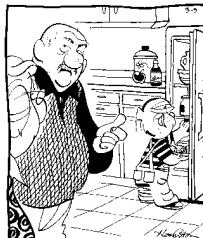


"Who wants to guess what PJ drew a picture of?"

GRAFFITI

THE POPULATION EXPLOSION PROVES THAT TO THEIR IS HUMAN

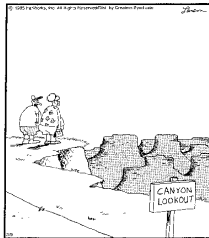
Dennis the Menace



"WHATSOEVER YOU LIKE, BE SURE TO TAKE IT OFF OUR GROCERY LIST."

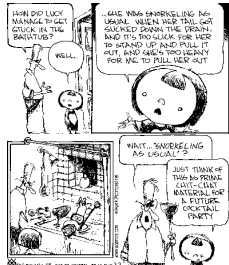
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"I dunno. We're just so far up, I think this would be better on the tube."

Non Sequitur



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Corned Beef and Cabbage for St. Patrick's Day the Healthy Way

If, in years past, you've missed a good corned beef and cabbage meal on St. Patrick's Day because you're away from home and away from Mom's cooking advice, then heed this advice. Don't do that again, this year! This is such an easy meal to prepare, there's no way you can go wrong. And, if you were thinking corned beef had way too much fat to be considered a healthy choice, I've got good news for you on that front as well.

Choose a "flat-cut" corned beef. Look for those exact words on the front of the package. It's the leaner half of the whole brisket. Same great corned beef flavor, but it weighs in low enough in fat to qualify as "lean" according to the government's labeling standards. Lean means 10 grams or less total fat; 4.5 grams or less saturated fat; and less than 95 milligrams cholesterol per serving. Check the nutrition label yourself, and know that you can enjoy traditional Irish fare the healthy way.

Most corned beef briskets are in the three to four-pound range, so you don't even have to fret over how much to buy. A conservative serving size is about four ounces per person, so count on a four-pound brisket serving eight to ten people.

Don't worry if that's more people than you can feed at one meal, corned beef keeps well. Use leftovers to make cold sandwiches accompanied by some good German mustard, heat thin slices in the microwave for a repeat meal, or better yet make Reuben sandwiches (thinly sliced corned beef, well drained sauerkraut, a slice of Swiss cheese and a tablespoon or so of Russian dressing, stuffed between two slices of lightly buttered rye bread, and grilled in a skillet or griddle, grilled cheese style.)

If you've never eaten corned beef before, now is the time to try it. Don't be surprised by its rosy red color, that's the result of the salt/spice/brine-cure process it undergoes to become corned beef. And no, corn is not used in the curing process. The name is an age-old reference to the corn-sized crystals of salt used to brine large cuts of beef brisket or beef round. Follow the cooking instructions on the package using the seasoning packet, or use this recipe from The Joy of Cooking to lower the sodium content just a bit. Check it out when you read the nutrition label - 1100 mg sodium per serving is high. If you prepare it according to package directions using the brine it's packed in, be sure to make low sodium choices in

other foods consumed that day. Either way you're sure to have a wonderful meal.

Corned Beef and Cabbage

1 corned beef brisket (about 4 pounds)

20 black peppercorns

2 bay leaves

1 head green cabbage, cored and cut into wedges

Remove corned beef from package and wash under running water to remove brine. Place the brisket in a large pot and add water to cover. Drop in the peppercorns and bay leaves. Set over high heat and bring liquid to the boil, then reduce heat to a simmer.

Simmer, covered, for about 3 hours, or until fork can easily penetrate the center. Add cabbage to the pot during the last 15 to 20 minutes of cooking.

Remove the meat from the pot and let stand for 15 minutes. Drain the cabbage and keep warm. Cut the corned beef, against the grain, into thin slices and remove to serving plate or platter.

Serve with boiled potatoes - the new-crop red potatoes, if we have them. Cook and serve them with the peeling on. Offer mustard or horseradish as a condiment for the meat.

Croatia's Ljubicic tops Roddick, U.S. in Davis Cup

By KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Even Andre Agassi couldn't lead the U.S. team to Davis Cup success.

The Americans sent out an impressive group against Croatia, with Agassi back after five years to join Andy Roddick and doubles specialists Bob and Mike Bryan.

Ivan Ljubicic proved too much for all of them, almost single-handedly leading his country to a 3-2 opening-round victory Sunday.

The 25-year-old Ljubicic ran his record against the United States to 6-0 with two singles victories to bookend a doubles triumph.

U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe obviously was disappointed with the loss — and very impressed by Ljubicic's performance.

"To play that well, to beat Agas-



Andy Roddick reacts after losing a game to Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic during their Davis Cup singles match on Sunday. Ljubicic won 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-2 to send Croatia into the quarterfinals.

si, the Bryans and Roddick back to back, it's an impressive performance," McEnroe said.

Ljubicic finished off his iron man stint with a victory over Roddick, propelling Croatia into the

quarterfinals against Romania.

On a roll that has carried him to four tour finals this year, Ljubicic was proud to win for his country.

"I think all around the world, this is going to be big news because to beat Andre, Bryans and Roddick in three days, I think it's a great effort," he said.

"I was thinking if I could just win one singles, just to keep up the momentum and just keep the confidence up. But I did it all the way, so it is just amazing."

The United States has won the Cup 31 times, but not for a decade. The drought is the Americans' longest in 68 years.

Ljubicic outlasted Roddick 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-2 in a match that featured a highlight reel's worth of spectacular shots by both players and lasted 3 hours, 58 minutes.

"There's no worse feeling than

losing a match in Davis Cup in our sport, especially when your teammates are counting on you," Roddick said. "There are so many people that you're playing for and that you feel like you've let down."

Ljubicic began the round with a straight-set victory over Agassi, then teamed with Ancic to hand Bob Bryan and his twin brother, Mike, their first Davis Cup loss in six matches.

Both Roddick and Ljubicic played extremely well in their match, with Roddick rocketing one serve that hit 152 mph. But Ljubicic was able to punch back some of the powerful first serves, and he pounced on Roddick's 73 second serves to win 41 points.

After winning the fourth-set tie-breaker, Roddick immediately lost his serve to start the fifth set. Ljubicic broke through again in the fifth game to take clear control.

STRIPES CLASSIFIED



The Titan Corporation and its partners Northrop Grumman, Wave Technologies and Hana Engineering, collectively known as Team Titan, are competing for the Engineering and Technical Services (ETS) for PACAF Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Wargaming, and Force Protection (C4IW and FP) Systems Program. Titan is a Fortune 500 company with 2004 revenues exceeding \$2B; is an industry leader in C4ISR and related mission essential systems and services.

We have a long history of partnering with our clients and delivering innovative and responsive support for national security. We are looking for highly capable individuals to continue this trend. PACAF ETS work includes:

- Program Management
- Systems Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Technical Assistance
- Configuration Management
- System and Database Administration
- System/Network Management
- Technical Training
- Exercise Support
- Hardware Maintenance
- Wargaming Support

This effort supports PACAF activities on the Pacific Rim in particular: Alaska - Elmendorf AFB, Eielson AFB; Guam - Andersen AFB; Hawaii - Hickam AFB; Japan - Kadana AB, Misawa AB, Yokota AB; and, Korea - Osan AB, Kunsan AB.

It is estimated that this contract will be awarded this summer with work beginning October 1, 2005. For information on these positions and to submit your resume online, visit us at <http://www.titan.com/careers/>. If you have questions, please contact us at pacafets@titan.com.

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-Presession baseball: Texas vs. San Francisco.

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-Kona, 8 p.m.-NBA: Orlando at Cleveland.

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Women's college basketball: All East Conference Tournament.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.-College basketball: Milwaukee vs. East Conference basketball.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.-College basketball: All East Conference Tournament.

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Philadelphia vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin, Fla.

Fla. Marlins (ss) vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Fla.

Baltimore vs. N.Y. Mets (at Port of Lucie, Fla.)

Texas vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.

San Diego vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix, Ariz.

Oakland (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.

Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.

San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.

San Francisco vs. Kansas City (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.

San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.

San Francisco vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.

Seattle (ss) vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.

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Charlotte, N.C. Championship

Yardage: 4,532, Part 72

Texas Christian 60, Louisville 41

Baylor 50, Wake Forest 30

Dayton 60, Ohio State 30

Wisconsin-Green Bay 12, Ill.-Chicago 59

Wright State 77, Detroit 66

Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. Wright State

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference

Richmond, Va. Championship

Canisius 69, Duquesne 50

Mid-American Conference

Quarterfinals

Bowling Green vs. Miami (Ohio)

Indiana State vs. Michigan

Kent State vs. Ohio

Marshall vs. West Virginia

Mid-Continent Conference

Dayton, Ohio Championship

Oakland Roberts 66, Chicago 53

Oakland Roberts 66, Chicago 53

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Huachuquillas, Mexico

Purser: \$1.2 million

Yardage: 4,532, Part 72

Ankara Sports, \$1,000,000

Karabag Sports, \$1,000,000

Ordu Sports, \$1,000,000

Trabzon Sports, \$1,000,000

Yedigöller Sports, \$1,000,000

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(31) Shawn Robinson, Chevrolet, 80,

\$40,220

(32) Jose Luis Ramirez, Dodge, 80,

\$37,720

(33) Randy Lallier, Chevrolet, 80,

\$37,720

(34) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 80,

\$37,720

(35) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 75, \$40,515

(36) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 75, \$39,660

(37) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 75, \$39,660

(38) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 75, \$39,660

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(70) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 75, \$39,660

Baseball

Spring training games

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct
Detroit	3	1	.750
Tampa Bay	3	1	.750
Texas	3	1	.750
Minnesota	3	1	.750
Toronto	2	2	.500
Los Angeles	2	2	.500
Chicago	2	2	.500
San Diego	2	2	.500
New York	2	2	.500
Seattle	2	2	.500
Oakland	2	2	.500

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	4	1	.800
Milwaukee	4	1	.800
Arizona	3	2	.600
Chicago	3	2	.600
Washington	3	2	.600
St. Louis	2	3	.400
New York	2	3	.400
San Francisco	2	3	.400
Cincinnati	2	3	.400
Colorado	2	3	.400
San Diego	2	3	.400
Pittsburgh	1	4	.200
Houston	1	4	.200
Florida	1	4	.200
Los Angeles	1	4	.200
Philadelphia	0	4	.000
Note: Split-squad games count in the			
standings; games against non-major league			
teams do not.			

Confident Smoltz makes transition back to starter

The Associated Press

John Smoltz threw the first pitch of the game instead of its last for the first time since 2001. Kevin Brown made his first pain-free start since signing with the Yankees before last season.

After three stellar years as Atlanta's closer, Smoltz made a triumphant return to the starting rotation and pitched two scoreless innings Sunday during the Braves' 8-7 victory over a New York Mets split squad in Kissimmee, Fla.

"Same Smoltzie," manager Bobby Cox said. "Just got to build up some endurance, that's all. He's going to fit right in with all the other starters."

The 1996 Cy Young winner allowed two soft singles and struck out one against a watered-down Mets lineup. It was an impressive spring debut, especially for a 37-year-old pitcher who was switched to the bullpen after three elbow operations — the Braves thought the move would prolong his career.

"It's funny how Randy Johnson's not old, Roger Clemens is not old, but a guy who's had four surgeries becomes old real quick," Smoltz said. "It's not an experiment. It's not something I haven't done before. But I understand the magnitude of what it could be."

At Tampa, Fla., Brown struggled during the first inning, allowing a run and three hits. Then he made some adjustments and followed with two scoreless innings in New York's 6-5 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

"At least I felt like I was moving OK. I didn't feel like I was locked up. It wasn't an issue," Brown said.

Brown's health could be a major factor for the Yankees. His back didn't feel right all of last year in going 10-6 with a 4.09 ERA, and the former All-Star missed most of September when he punched a wall and broke his left hand. Then he was shelved by the Boston Red Sox in Game 7 of the ALCS.

Spring training

He threw 53 pitches against the Reds, allowing four hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

"I loved what I saw," catcher Jorge Posada said.

Gary Sheffield, another injured Yankees star, made his debut.

Sheffield, recovering from an offseason operation on his left shoulder, went 2-for-3 with a pair of RBI singles. The Yankees started their regular lineup for the first time this year — an All-Star at every position.

"Just to know that you can play a baseball game without feeling the agony or the pain I had last year, I can't really explain it," Sheffield said. "I just know when I'm healthy what I can do."

In other games:

Red Sox 5, Phillies 4: At Fort Myers, Fla., Hanley Ramirez, Boston's top minor leaguer, started a triple play in the top of the sixth inning. Boston's new shortstop, Edgar Renteria, homered off Amaury Telemaco. Randy Wolf, United 23 starts last year by ten-home run of spring training, this one off Shawn Chacon, who is moving back to the starting rotation after a difficult year as Colorado's closer. He allowed three runs and three hits and threw a wild pitch in two innings.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 1: At Jupiter, Fla., A.J. Burnett allowed four runs in two innings for Florida. Cardinals starter Chris Carpenter hit a two-run double and allowed two hits in three innings, striking out two. Jim Edmonds hit an RBI single for St. Louis.

Indians 2, Tigers 2 (10): At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia was scratched from his start because he strained a right abdominal muscle while warming up. The left-hander was replaced by Cliff Lee, who allowed one hit and struck out two in two scoreless innings. Chris Shelton had three of the Tigers' seven hits.

Nationals (ss) 9, Astros 4: At Waco, Fla., Washington's Zach Day made his first start in seven months, hitting the game's first

batter and allowing two solo homers. Brad Wilkerson homered for the second straight game for the Nationals.

Mets (ss) 14, Nationals (ss) 5: At Port St. Lucie, Victor Zambrano gave up three hits and two runs in 2-1-3 innings for New York. Jose Reyes finished 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Nationals starter Mike Hincley gave up six runs — five earned — and eight hits in two innings.

Devil Rays 5, Pirates 3: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay's Aubrey Huff had an RBI double, scored a run and caught a hit by Ty Wigginton against the left-field wall to preserve a tie. Ryan Vogelsong allowed three runs in three innings for Pittsburgh.

Giants 10, Cubs 1: At Scottsdale, Ariz., Omar Vizquel homered and singled for his first hits in a San Francisco uniform. Cubs starter Jimmy Anderson gave up five singles and three runs in the first inning.

Rangers 16, Rockies 1: At Tucson, Ariz., Texas prospect Adrian Gonzalez hit his second home run of spring training, this one off Shawn Chacon, who is moving back to the starting rotation after a difficult year as Colorado's closer. He allowed three runs and three hits and threw a wild pitch in two innings.

Orioles 4, Dodgers 2: Vero Beach, Fla., Scott Erickson, making a bid for the No. 5 spot in the Dodgers' rotation, pitched three innings of no-hit ball. Orioles starter Rodrigo Lopez also pitched three shutout innings in his first start of spring training.

Padres 9, Mariners 6 (10): At Peoria, Ariz., Xavier Nady and Jesus Garcia hit San Diego's first homers of the spring. Ichiro Suzuki and Randy Winn had RBI triples for Seattle.

Brewers 9, Royals 6: At Surprise, Ariz., Carlos Lee hit two home runs and drove in five runs for Milwaukee. Prince Fielder



Atlanta Braves' John Smoltz works against the New York Mets in a spring training game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Sunday.

went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs. Rick Helting, who spent all of last season in the minors, pitched two shutout innings for the Brewers.

Kansas City's Zack Greinke allowed seven runs and seven hits — four for extra bases.

Angels 17, Athletics 4: At Phoenix, Casey Kotchman had his first two-run double among his five RBIs. Bartolo Colon, making his first start of the spring for Los Angeles, struck out two in two innings. He gave up a run and two hits.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 5: At Dune-

din, Fla., 2004 Cy Young winner Johan Santana allowed one hit and two innings for Minnesota. The 2003 winner, Roy Halladay, gave up two runs and four hits for Toronto. The Twins' Todd Dunwoody had three hits, including a double and solo homer off Halladay.

Diamondbacks 8, White Sox 3: At Tucson, Ariz., Javier Vazquez threw three strong innings for Arizona, giving up one run and two hits while striking out three.

Fellow newcomer Troy Glaus drove in a pair of runs.

Jermaine Dye hit his first homer as a member of the White Sox.

Indians' Miller out until June

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Pitcher Adam Miller, regarded as the Cleveland Indians' top prospect, will be sidelined until at least June with a strained right elbow.

An MRI exam showed a strained ligament in his throwing arm, and he won't be allowed to throw for six weeks. Another MRI then will be taken to determine if he can be cleared for a four-to-six week throwing program, said John Farrell, the team's director of player development.

Farrell said Sunday surgery does not appear likely. Miller, drafted in the first round in 2003, went a combined 10-6 at two levels of Class A ball in 2004. The 20-year-old right-hander's fastball was timed at 100 mph last summer with Kingston in the Carolina League championship series.

Selig: No changes to record book for suspected steroid use

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Steroids or not, baseball's record book won't be changing.

Commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday that no records will be taken away from players suspected of steroid use.

"That would be unfair to do that," said Selig before a game between the Oakland Athletics and Los Angeles Angels. "In fairness to those players, no one has been convicted of anything. And we can't turn history back."

"My job is to protect the integrity of the game. Each era, each decade has had situations where people said there were unfair advantages."

Also Sunday, Rep. Tom Davis confirmed reports that the House Government Reform Committee is prepared to subpoena players and officials who turn down invitations to appear at a March 17 hearing on baseball's steroids policy.

Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro, Frank Thomas, Selig and union head Donald Fehr are among those who have been invited, along with baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers.

"We'll use the subpoena to get them there if that's what we have to do," Davis, the committee chairman, told CBS News.

Schmidt: Other factors boosting HRs

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Mike Schmidt refused to blame steroids for the increase in

home runs in the major leagues — or for his diminishing status on the career home run list.

"Leave steroids out of it," Schmidt said Sunday. "There's a simple explanation why the home run totals are what they are, and the guys that are hitting would agree with me — it's park size, hard baseballs and hard bats."

Since the Hall of Fame third baseman retired in 1989 with the seventh-most home runs (548), he has been passed by four players — Barry Bonds (703), Mark McGwire (583), Sammy Sosa (574) and Rafael Palmeiro (551).

Schmidt estimates the smaller ballpark and the equipment help elite power hitters add 10-12 home runs more per season than those of his generation.

MLB
bribs

Truex earns Busch win south of the border

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — NASCAR's first surprise-filled journey south of the border finished a lot like those back home, with regulars Martin Truex Jr., Kevin Harvick and Carl Edwards at the front of the pack.

Truex used a planned early pit stop — and took advantage of a lucky yellow flag that shut the door on two pursuers — to hang onto the lead over the final 28 laps of the first points-paying NASCAR race outside the United States in a half century.

Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick finished just over 6 seconds back, second in a third-consecutive Busch Series race after slipping past Carl Edwards on the 78th lap of the 80-lap Telcel-Motorola 200.

Truex made two early pit stops, his last at the 46th lap.

"We wanted to have a full tank of gas with 40 laps to go," Truex said.

The pit stop came seconds before a caution flag came out.

Adrian Fernandez and Boris Said, running in the top five, were caught in the approach to pit road and were penalized for pitting too quickly after the caution period started. They started at the back of pack, dashing their chances to win.

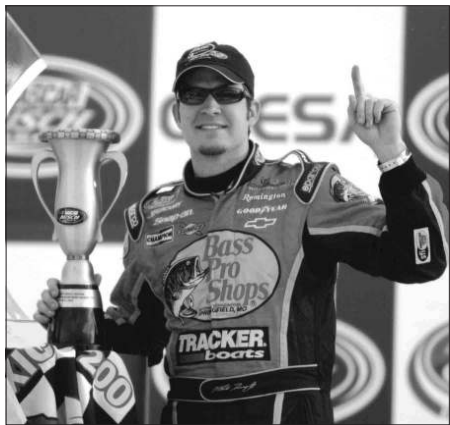
"As soon as we reached pit road and they told me the caution was on, I said, 'Yeah! That's perfect!' We caught a little bit of luck there," Truex said.

Said battled back to fifth and Fernandez to 10th by the end of the race.

Edwards had a remarkable comeback as well. He smashed his main car in practice and blew a replacement engine. Yet he managed to qualify ninth and finish third in his backup car.

Reed Sorenson, who entered the race second to Harvick in the season points standing, was running strong before spinning out on grass on lap 59. Virtually all of the race passed before he could get back on the track.

The race was a boost for NASCAR's effort to build a new fan base in Mexico,



Martin Truex Jr. celebrates after winning the NASCAR series race at the Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City on Saturday. It was NASCAR's first race in Mexico.

where open-wheel racing has been dominant. Promoters said a healthy 94,229 people turned out on race day following a 38,319 crowd for Saturday's qualifying.

"This could become the marquee event for the series," said Robbie Weiss, NASCAR's chief of international business. But he said no contract had yet been signed for next year. Ticket prices started at 180 pesos — about \$17 — nearly double the country's median daily wage.

But fans hoping for a hometown stunner had to be satisfied the pole position and early race leadership of the little-known Jorge Goeters, who was making his first Busch Series race.

Goeters led for the first 24 laps, but his first NASCAR pit stop was a disaster — coming in under the green flag and stopping initially at a neighboring pit.

He batted back up to 10th but pulled off the track on the 66th lap with his car spewing smoke.

"This could become the marquee event for the series."

Robbie Weiss
NASCAR's chief of international business

Fernandez, making his first NASCAR start, had the fastest practice time but a crash in qualifying knocked him to the back of Sunday's grid. He fought back to the lead, but was then penalized to the back again.

Edwards clipped another Mexican star, Michel Jourdain Jr., spinning him into the wall and knocking him out of the race for 10 laps while his crew worked on repairs.

"I was a little overaggressive," Edwards said in a public apology to Jourdain. "I hope I can make it up to him."

Carlos Contreras, the first Mexican to race in a Busch race, was running a steady sixth when his car slowed on the 72nd lap and he pitted.

Robby Gordon qualified in the first row Saturday but quickly ran into engine woes during the race, and pitted after the 59th lap after spewing oil on the track.

NASCAR said it was investigating a pressure scuffle between Gordon and Carl Edwards' crew chief, Brad Parrott.

NASCAR modified the Hermanos Rodriguez course, designed for Formula One and Champ Cars, to accommodate the less agile and slower-braking NASCAR vehicles.

The pre-race festivities were conducted in Spanish. After the national anthems of Mexico and the United States, Grand Marshal Eugenio Derbez, a local television star, cried out, "¡Viva México!" and welcomed the cars to life with the traditional English cry, "Gentlemen, start your engines!"

Ex-Huskies coach Neuheisel settles for at least \$4.5M

The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Fired football coach Rick Neuheisel will receive at least \$4.5 million in a settlement Monday of his lawsuit against the NCAA and the University of Washington.

The deal was announced by Judge Michael Spearman just before closing arguments were to begin in the 5-week trial.

Neuheisel will receive cash payments of \$2.5 million from the NCAA and \$500,000 from the university. Additionally, the university agreed not to seek repayment of a \$1.5 million loan.

Neuheisel's attorneys also included \$200,000 in interest on the loan in announcing their settlement figure of \$4.7 million.

University officials disputed that figure, saying no loan interest was included in the settlement.

"I feel fully vindicated," Neuheisel said outside the courtroom. "Obviously they're going to have their stories, too, but I feel like this is the best scenario. Nobody's nose gets bloodied."

"The legal system works," he

Sports briefs

added. "The players got together and found an amicable resolution. I'm thrilled to be moving on."

Neuheisel, now the quarterbacks coach for the Baltimore Ravens, had accused the university of wrongfully terminating his contract and the NCAA of encouraging Washington administrators to fire him.

The university had argued that he had signed a contract that allowed for his firing for acts of dishonesty. School officials have said Neuheisel was fired for gambling on an NCAA basketball pool and failing to be forthright about it with NCAA investigators.

Last week, Spearman left open the possibility of declaring a mistrial because the NCAA had failed to provide Neuheisel's legal team with an updated version of its bylaws during discovery. In a statement Monday, the university said it agreed to settle because a mistrial could be declared.

In four seasons with the Hus-

kies, Neuheisel compiled a 33-16 record, including a Rose Bowl victory in 2001 and a No. 3 national ranking. Former athletic director Barbara Hedges fired him in 2003 after she said Neuheisel lied to her about interviewing for a job with the San Francisco 49ers and about his participation in NCAA men's basketball gambling pools in 2002 and '03.

Warner agrees with Cardinals

PHOENIX — Kurt Warner agreed Sunday to a one-year, \$4 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals, the two-time MVP's third team in three seasons.

The 33-year-old quarterback, who lost his starting job with the Giants to rookie Eli Manning last season, is to sign the contract and appear at a news conference in Arizona on Tuesday.

Warner was a three-time Pro Bowl selection with the St. Louis Rams. He led the Rams to the Super Bowl in 1999 and 2001, beating Tennessee and winning MVP in the 2000 game.

But after losing the starting job to Marc Bulger in St. Louis, he signed a one-year deal with the Gi-

ants before last season.

Warner has made it clear that he expects to be a starter.

RB Johnson signs with Bengals

CINCINNATI — Running back Rudi Johnson signed a one-year, \$6.3 million contract Monday to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Johnson, who set a Bengals single-season rushing record last season with 1,454 yards, is still free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team, and he says he wants to do that.

Johnson became a free agent March 2, but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they could retain him by matching any offer sheet he signed with another team.

The deal allows the Bengals to keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice in 2004, will develop into their running back of the future. Perry was sidelined much of his rookie season by injuries.

Sullivan finalists announced

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Olympic gold medalists Michael Phelps, Carly Patterson and Paul

Hamm, and Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart were among the 10 finalists announced Monday for the Sullivan Award, given to the nation's top amateur athlete.

Phelps, last year's Sullivan winner, captured six golds and two bronzes at the Athens Olympics, matching the record for most medals won at a single Games.

Patterson, of Allen, Texas, was the first U.S. woman to win the Olympic all-around title since Mary Lou Retton. She also won silver medals in the team competition and on the balance beam, and was the USOC's SportsWoman of the Year.

Hamm was the first U.S. man to win the Olympic all-around.

Leinart led Southern California to an undefeated season and its second straight national title.

Other finalists are: Jeremy Warner (track) Elisha Au (karate); Natalie Coughlin (swimming); Steven Lopez (taekwondo); Cael Sanderson (wrestling); and Anne Weir (figure skating). Online voting on the USA Today Web site will help determine the winner, who will be announced April 13 in New York.

Men's conference tournament scoreboard

America East

Friday, March 4
 Mid-Battemen 69, New Hampshire 73
 Stony Brook 66, Hartford 46
Saturday, March 5
 Binghamton 76, Albany, N.Y. 70
 Vermont 76, Mid-Battemen 69
 Northeastern 99, Stony Brook 79
 Maine 47, Boston University 46
Sunday, March 6
 Vermont 76, Binghamton 76
 Northeastern 82, Maine 73
Championship
 Northeastern 67, Vermont 67

Atlantic Coast

Thursday, March 10
 Maryland vs. Clemson
 North Carolina 51, Florida 10
 Miami vs. Virginia
Friday, March 11
 North Carolina vs. Maryland/Clemson
 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech
 Wake Forest vs. N.C. State/Florida 51
 Duke vs. Miami/Virginia
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
 Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Atlantic Sun

Thursday, March 3
 Gardner-Webb 64, Troy 62
 Central Florida 81, Mercer 68
 Belmont 67, Georgia State 61
 Jacksonville 69, Lipscomb 64
Friday, March 4
 Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76
 Central Florida 66, Belmont 61
Saturday, March 5
 Championship
 Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54

Atlantic 10

Wednesday, March 9
 Richmond vs. Rhode Island
 Massachusetts vs. La Salle
 Fordham vs. Duquesne
 Dayton vs. St. Bonaventure
Thursday, March 10
 Saint Joseph's vs. Richmond/Rhode Island
 Xavier vs. Massachusetts/La Salle
 Wake Forest vs. Fordham/Duquesne
 Temple vs. Dayton/St. Bonaventure
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Big East

Wednesday, March 9
 West Virginia vs. Providence
 Georgetown vs. Seton Hall
 Notre Dame vs. Butler
Quarterfinals
 Kentucky vs. Pittsburgh
 Boston College vs. W. Virginia/Providence
 Boston College vs. Pittsburgh
 Connecticut vs. Georgetown/Seton Hall
 Syracuse vs. Appalachian State
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Big Sky

Saturday, March 5
 Montana 58, Eastern Washington 49
 Weber State 74, Sacramento State 62
Thursday, March 8
 Montana 58, Montana State 40
 Portland State vs. Weber St.
Wednesday, March 9
 Championship

Big South

Thursday, March 9
 Charleston Southern 60, Liberty 60
 High Point 68, N.C.-Asheville 97
 Charlotte 74, Coastal Carolina 62
 Birmingham-Southern 60, Radford 40
Friday, March 10
 Charleston Southern 58, High Point 55
 Winthrop 65, Birmingham-Southern 46
Saturday, March 5
 Championship
 Winthrop 68, Charleston Southern 46

Big Ten

Thursday, March 10
 Northwestern vs. Michigan
 Iowa vs. Purdue
 Wisconsin vs. Ohio State
Friday, March 11
 Illinois vs. Northwestern/Michigan
 Minnesota vs. Indiana
 Michigan State vs. Iowa/Purdue
 Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Big 12

Thursday, March 10
 Missouri vs. Nebraska
 Texas vs. Baylor
 Kansas State vs. Kansas State
 Texas vs. Colorado
Friday, March 11
 Oklahoma vs. Missouri/Nebraska
 Texas Tech vs. Iowa State
 Kansas vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State
 Oklahoma vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Big West

Wednesday, March 9
 UC Irvine vs. Idaho
 Long Beach State vs. Santa Barbara
Thursday, March 10
 Cal Fullerton vs. Long Beach State
 Cal Northridge vs. higher-seeded winner
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Colonial Athletic

Friday, March 4
 William & Mary 68, James Madison 54
 Delaware 76, Towson 56
Saturday, March 5
 Delaware 76, Towson 56
 Haskins 89, Drexel 77
 N.C.-Wilmington 60, George Mason 47
 Old Dominion 72, Hobart 58
 Va. Commonwealth vs. Virginia Commonwealth 46
Monday, March 6
 Old Dominion vs. Va. Commonwealth
Championship
 Old Dominion vs. Va. Commonwealth

Conference USA

Thursday, March 10
 Texas Christian vs. Tulane
 South Carolina vs. Louisiana
 Houston vs. Texas A&M
 Louisville vs. Tulane/Marguerite
 Memphis vs. DePaul/Tulane
 Charlotte vs. Memphis/Saint Louis
 Dallas vs. Houston/South Florida
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Horizon League

Thursday, March 11
 Wright St. 61, Butler 57
 Loyola of Chicago 86, Youngstown St. 75
 Ill.-Chicago 84, Cleveland 63
Friday, March 12
 Detroit 61, Wright St. 48
 Loyola of Chicago 81, Ill.-Chicago 81
Saturday, March 13
 Wright St. 61, Detroit 61
 Wis.-Milwaukee 94, Loyola of Chicago 76
Championship
 Detroit vs. Wis.-Milwaukee

Metro Atlantic

Friday, March 4
 Iona 68, Siena 51
 Louisville 62, Marist 60
 Manhattan 88, Loyola, Md. 67
 Iona 97, St. Peter's 73
 Rider 78, Canisius 69
 Fairfield 62, Manhattan 60
Saturday, March 5
 Niagara 69, Iona 66
 Rider 76, Fairfield 74
Monday, March 7
 Championship
 Niagara vs. Rider

Mid-American

Monday, March 7
 Marshall at Ohio
 Central Michigan at Kent State
 Ball State at Akron
 Northern Illinois at Buffalo
Thursday, March 10
 Toledo vs. Northern Illinois/Buffalo
 W. Michigan vs. E. Michigan/Akron
 Miami (Ohio) 65, Ball State/ Bowling Green
 Ohio/Marshall vs. Kent State/C. Michigan
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Mid-Continent

Saturday, March 5
 Oral Roberts 58, Southern 59
 Oakland, Mich. 67, Kansas City 63
 IUPUI-Indianapolis 70, W. Illinois 62
 Chicago State 72, Indianapolis 60
Monday, March 8
 Oral Roberts vs. IUPUI/Indianapolis
 Oakland, Mich. vs. Chicago State
Thursday, March 9
 Championship

Mid-Eastern Athletic

Thursday, March 9
 Morgan St. vs. Mid.-Eastern Shore
 Florida A&M vs. Norfolk State
Friday, March 10
 Bethune-Cookman vs. Carolina A&T
 Delaware vs. middle-seeded winner
 Hampton vs. middle-seeded winner
 South Carolina 51 vs. Norfolk St.
 Oral Roberts 58 vs. highest-seeded winner
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Missouri Valley

Friday, March 4
 Indiana 54, Bradley 61
 Oral Roberts 64, Evansville 64
Saturday, March 5
 Southern Illinois 64, Wichita 49
 Southwest Missouri 79, Northern Iowa 62
 Wichita St. 72, Drake 52
 Creighton 66, Illinois 52
Monday, March 8
 SW Missouri 66, Southern Illinois 61
 Creighton 70, Wichita 52
Monday, March 9
 SW Missouri vs. Creighton

Mountain West

Thursday, March 10
 Utah vs. Wyoming
 New Mexico vs. Brigham Young
 Air Force vs. San Diego St.
Friday, March 11
 Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming
 New Mexico/BYU vs. Air Force/San Diego St.
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Northeast

Thursday, March 3
 Monmouth, N.J. 54, C. Connecticut 53
 Fairfield Dickinson 78, St. Francis, N.Y. 60
 Wagner 69, Robert Morris 65

Long Island U. 76, St. Francis, Pa. 67
Sunday, March 6
 Wagner 63, Monmouth 61
 Fairfield Dickinson 70, Long Island U. 62
Monday, March 7
 Championship
 Wagner vs. Fairfield Dickinson

Ohio Valley

Thursday, March 11
 Tennessee Tech 72, Eastern Illinois 68
 Jacksonville St. 71, Sevier 51
 Eastern Kentucky 74, Tennessee St. 68
 Southeast Missouri 67, N.C. St. 58
Friday, March 4
 Austin Peay 67, Tennessee Tech 67
 Eastern Kentucky 66, SE Missouri 52
Saturday, March 5
 Championship
 Eastern Kentucky vs. Austin Peay 46

Pac-10

Thursday, March 10
 Arizona vs. California
 Oregon vs. Washington State
 Washington vs. Arizona State
 Duke and Washington State
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
 Championship

Patriot

Friday, March 4
 Lehigh 77, Colgate 66
 Holy Cross 76, Army 42
 American 85, Navy 83, OT
 Boston College 77, Northeastern 66
Sunday, March 6
 Holy Cross 57, Boston College 40
 Bucknell 53, American 35
Friday, March 11
 Championship
 Bucknell at Boston College

Southeastern

Thursday, March 10
 Alabama vs. Mississippi
 Mississippi State vs. Georgia
 Arkansas vs. Tennessee
 Vanderbilt vs. Auburn
Friday, March 11
 Alabama vs. South Carolina/Mississippi
 Florida vs. Mississippi State/Georgia
 Kentucky vs. Arkansas/Tennessee
 LSU vs. Vanderbilt/Auburn
Saturday, March 12
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Southern

Wednesday, March 2
 Elon 64, Wofford 58
 Western Carolina 57, Eastern Tennessee 67, Furman 84
Thursday, March 3
 Davidson 67, East Tennessee 59
 N.C.-Greensboro 73, Georgia Southern 71
 Chattanooga 66, Western Carolina 60
 Appalachian 63, Charleston 60
Friday, March 4
 N.C.-Greensboro 73, Davidson 68
 Chattanooga 66, Chattanooga 51
Saturday, March 5
 Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 62

Southland

Thursday, March 9
 Texas-Arlington at North Texas (I.A.) St.
 Texas State at Southeastern Louisiana
 N. Texas 61 vs. Sam Houston 51
 Lamar at Texas San Antonio 51
Friday, March 10
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Southwestern Athletic

Thursday, March 10
 Grambling vs. Southern
 Alabama 51 vs. Prairie View A&M
 Mississippi Valley vs. Alabama
 Alabama A&M 49 vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff
Friday, March 11
 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
 Championship

Sun Belt

Friday, March 4
 Fla. International 61, South Alabama 57
 Arkansas 51, North Texas 76
 Middle Tennessee 67, Tennessee 50
Saturday, March 5
 Fla. International 65, Ark.-Little Rock 64
 Denver 64, Kentucky 57
Sunday, March 6
 Middle Tennessee 78, New Orleans 67
 La-Salle 61 vs. Middle Tennessee 57
 Denver vs. W. Kentucky
Monday, March 7
 Fla. International vs. La-Salle
Monday, March 8
 Championship

West Coast

Friday, March 4
 Pepperdine 91, Loyola Marymount 79
 San Diego State 68 vs. Santa Clara 64
Saturday, March 5
 Gonzaga 69, San Francisco 60
 Santa Clara 69, San Diego 74
Sunday, March 6
 Gonzaga vs. St. Mary's
Monday, March 7
 Championship

Western Athletic

Friday, March 4
 Hawaii vs. San Jose State
 Duke and No. 7 Kansas lost, the
 Demon Deacons saw an opportunity.
Told that replays show he
hanging back, Paul responded,
"I haven't seen the replay."
 The question is whether Paul
 will face any kind of sanction

Paul's two shots
at Wake
beats... State

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Chris Paul's first-half shot nearly overshadowed his last-second basket to beat North Carolina State.

The sophomore hit a buzzer-beating runner to tie fourth-ranked Wake Forest just before North Carolina State 55-53 on Sunday night, keeping the Demon Deacons in contention for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

But Paul also faced plenty of questions afterward about his low blow to Wakefast star Julius Hodge.

Either way, the feisty point guard was the center of attention. Paul finished with nine points and six assists for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won 10 of 11 and tied school records for victories overall and in the league.

With the Wakefast (17-12, 7-9) leading 53-50, Justin Gray nailed a tying three-pointer right in front of the Wake Forest bench with 12.8 seconds left.

Wags Atsur tried to answer, but his hurried three-pointer fell well short of the rim and out of bounds, giving the Demon Deacons possession with 4.2 seconds left.

Paul did the rest. He inbounded the ball to Vytas Danielius, who sent it right back. Paul then answered through three rebounds. Wakefast defenders, bounced off a bump from Atsur and launched a fadeaway shot from about 12 feet.

The ball swished through the net at the horn, sending the Demon Deacons onto the court for a celebration and giving Paul the last word on a testy night in Raleigh.

In a play that set the tone the rest of the night, Paul gave Hodge a hard parking gift on senior night, hitting him with a low blow during a battle underneath the basket. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, fell to the court with 12.48 left in the first half.

With Hodge down, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK — and to yell toward Paul on the Wake Forest bench. Steve Hodge walked off the court, and arena security soon instructed him to leave the court area.

Once Hodge got up, he angrily yelled and gestured toward the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way back to the bench.

Paul said the two were just tangled up.

"I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "I was just as hot as the game. I've got to pop him with respect for him to try to pop him on senior night."

Told that replays show he hanging back, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay."

The question is whether Paul will face any kind of sanction

AP

N.C. State's Julius Hodge (24) and Wake Forest's Chris Paul contest a rebound late in Sunday night's game. Wake won 55-53.

from the league for the blow. Hodge mentioned his suspension as a freshman for an elbow he threw against Maryland's Steve Blake, which was caught on film and led to a one-game suspension.

"He punched me in the groin and the ref saw it," Hodge said. "I got suspended for that (as a freshman) ... I never play dirty like that."

A Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said he didn't see the incident. N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said he had reviewed replays of the incident, but declined comment.

"I think the replay is going to have to speak for me tonight," he said.

A few minutes after returning to the game, Hodge was waived for a technical foul when he gave Paul a shove after he was fouled in the post.

From there, Paul was booted every time he touched the ball, and N.C. State fans began chanting "Dirty Deacons."

Wake Forest shot just 29 percent in the second half, going without a field goal for 10 minutes, but still pulled it out on big shots by Paul and Gray.

And on the same day that No. 1 Illinois, No. 3 Kentucky, No. 6 Duke and No. 7 Kansas lost, the Demon Deacons saw an opportunity.

We thought that might've opened the door a little bit more (for a No. 1 seed) and gave us a chance right here to make a move up," said Gray, who had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Ilian Evtimov scored 19 points to lead N.C. State, which is trying for its fourth straight NCAA bid.

Falcons still flying high

Posting its best-ever record cost Air Force its coach, but new guy Chris Mooney has things under control

BY RANDY HOLTZ
Rocky Mountain News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — This is wrong, all wrong.

College basketball coaches are supposed to be old, crotchety guys, men sporting faces creased with years of worry, edgy men with nervous systems ravaged by the torments of knowing their professional fate is decided by unpredictable youngsters who barely need to shave.

Picture Bob Knight, Jim Calhoun, Gene Keady, tortured souls all.

Chris Mooney does not fit the mold, not even a little bit. He is 32 and looks younger. He is pleasant. He smiles a lot. The requisite intensity is there, yet it is all inside, not on his sleeve for all to see.

But there are different ways to skin this college hoops cat, which Mooney has proved during an Air Force Academy season that further has established the Falcons as one of the feel-good turnaround stories in the sport.

When Mooney took over at Air Force for one of his lifetime mentors, promoted from an assistant's job after the departure of Joe Scott to their shared alma mater of Princeton after last season's worst-to-first transformation, the decision was a no-brainer.

Same system, same theories, many of the same players. Still, there was no guarantee Mooney would not drop the ball. As a former college coach, he was as untested as they come, all youth and ambition.

He has not dropped the ball. He has carried it to the second finest season in Air Force history, guiding the Falcons to an 18-11 record and the No. 3 seed in the Mountain West Conference tournament beginning Thursday in Denver.

He has done it with the same

"I knew when he was playing for us at Princeton that Chris would be a coach someday. He loved to play and he knew how to play. He understood what it took to win."

Joe Scott

Former Air Force coach

kind of attention to detail, the same kind of intelligence and precision that allowed Scott to turn a hopelessly overmatched program into a conference champion and NCAA tournament participant.

Mooney has done it with none of the over-the-top sideline theatrics of Scott, with none of the fiery-eyed, for-all-to-see passion that marked the tenure of his friend and former boss.

If Scott is a Type A personality, Mooney is a Type Z. But there is no arguing with the results.

"First and foremost, he's a natural leader, a guy people want to follow," said A.J. Korte, a senior starter on last season's 22-7 team and now a graduate assistant. "It's his overall attitude and approach, the way he carries himself. It's his knowledge, his enthusiasm and his energy."

"He hasn't changed at all from the past few years, except now he's the guy with the final say."

Mooney performed this coaching gig before, but not at the NCAA Division I level. He began at Lansdale Catholic High School in his native Philadelphia, then moved to Beaver College, a

small-schools program in Pennsylvania. Then Scott got the Air Force job and brought Mooney with him.

Until this season, Mooney was the behind-the-scenes guy. The enabler, the one keeping time behind the drums as Scott played front man. He watched and learned as Scott led. Now Mooney leads.

To Scott, whose first Princeton team had struggled with a 15-12 record and also-ran status in the Ivy League, Mooney's promotion was an easy decision.

"I knew when he was playing for us at Princeton (when Scott was an assistant to Pete Carril and Bill Carmody) that Chris would be a coach someday," Scott said. "He loved to play and he knew how to play. He understood what it took to win. He understood the plan."

Now it is Mooney's job to get others to understand the plan. His methods of persuasion might be gentler than those of the ex-coach Scott, but they work just the same.

"There were a lot of things involved in the transition," Mooney said. "Last season was such a magical season that when it was over, everybody was flying so high. It was like, 'Hey, everything's great.'"

"And then Joe left and people were wondering where we were headed. I thought it was important to get to work right away on the players' mind-sets. I had to know where they were with all this."

"So on the afternoon of the morning press conference (announcing his promotion), we had individual workouts. I talked to every player individually. I wanted to make the transition as seamless as possible."

It was not all sunshine, flowers and chirping birds. Faced with the most challenging nonconference schedule in school history — Scott made stepping up the schedule a top priority — Air Force



Air Force's Tim Anderson draws a charging foul from Wyoming's Jerry Webb a 61-56 victory last Saturday, Air Force's 18th of the season.

opened 6-5. When the Falcons lost 73-63 at Iowa on Dec. 28, their third consecutive setback, folks began wondering if Mooney's promotion was the right thing after all.

The young coach didn't panic, the younger players became more comfortable in the system and the veterans ratcheted up their leadership.

Since then, the Falcons have gone 12-6. Their only Mountain West losses have come to conference champion Utah (twice) and on the road against Wyoming, New Mexico and UNLV.

The Falcons need to win the conference tournament to get a return trip to the NCAA tournament berth. The way they are playing,

it is not outside the realm of possibility. If they cannot pull it off, they likely are headed to the NIT.

The NIT is not to be confused with the NAAs, but through three decades of Air Force basketball misery, any sort of postseason appearance would have been grounds for a parade.

"Nothing has come easy for us," said senior guard Tim Keller, one of three returning starters. "There aren't a lot of teams willing to do what we do. Every night's been a battle."

"But coach Mooney has been there with us all along, making us better. I think he's done an unbelievable job in a very difficult situation. Every guy on this team has the utmost respect for him."

No longer unanimous, Illinois still No. 1

BY JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

Illinois' first loss of the season wasn't enough to knock the Illini out of the top spot in the AP poll.

Illinois was on top of "The Associated Press" college basketball poll on Monday for the 14th straight week, but for the first time in five weeks the Illini were not a unanimous selection, receiving 48 first-place votes and 1,725 points from the national media panel.

Sunday's 65-64 loss to Ohio State ended any hopes of a perfect season for the Illini (29-1), which was trying to become the first team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss since UNLV in 1991.

North Carolina remains in second; Wake Forest jumps a spot to third

North Carolina (26-3), which needed a game-closing 11-0 run to beat Duke 75-73 on Sunday, stayed No. 2 for the third straight week and fifth of the last six. The Tar Heels had the other 22 votes for No. 1 and 1,701 points.

Wake Forest (26-4), which needed a buzzer-beater by Chris Paul to get past North Carolina State 55-53 on Sunday night, moved up one spot to No. 3.

Kennedy (23-4), which lost 53-52 to Florida on Sunday, dropped one place to fourth.

The top four teams went 2-2 on

Sunday with the games decided by a total of six points.

Duke, which beat Miami in its other game last week, moved up one place to No. 5, while Louisville, which won the Conference USA regular-season championship, moved up three spots to a season-high sixth.

Boston College, which lost to Princeton at home by 22 points last week, dropped two spots to seventh and was followed by Arizona, Kansas and Oklahoma State.

Arizona's No. 8 ranking was its

highest of the season, while Kansas, which has lost of four of six, fell to its season low of No. 9.

Gonzaga moved up one spot to match its highest ranking of the season No. 11. The Bulldogs were followed by Connecticut, Michigan State, Washington, Utah, Syracuse, Oklahoma, Pacific, Villanova and Alabama. The last five ranked teams were Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Wisconsin, Nevada and Charlotte.

Charlotte (21-6) lost to Louisville and South Florida last week and the 49ers' drop from 18th to No. 25 was the biggest of the week.

This was the third straight week that the same 25 teams were ranked.

The final poll will be released next Monday.

AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 6, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking.

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Illinois (48)	22-1	1,701	21
2. North Carolina (22)	26-3	1,706	4
3. Wake Forest	26-4	1,445	6
4. Kentucky	23-4	1,393	6
5. Louisville	23-4	1,393	5
6. Boston College	23-4	1,386	9
7. Connecticut	23-4	1,374	7
8. Kansas	22-6	1,134	7
9. Villanova St.	24-4	1,134	7
10. Michigan State	24-4	1,054	17
11. Gonzaga	22-5	1,051	11
12. Cincinnati	22-5	1,019	14
13. Washington	22-5	986	16
14. Utah	25-4	977	16
15. Syracuse	23-4	977	16
16. Oklahoma	23-4	930	20
17. Nevada	23-4	923	17
18. Villanova	21-6	922	19
19. South Florida	21-6	917	19
20. Cincinnati	24-4	933	22
21. Pittsburgh	20-7	867	24
22. Wisconsin	20-7	867	23
23. Arizona	20-7	867	23
24. Charlotte	21-6	112	18
Others receiving votes: Florida 9, LSU 58, Illinois 43, Texas 58, Wisc. Milwaukee 5, Georgia Tech 5, New Mexico 5, Texas A&M 4, UCLA 1, Holy Cross 2, Saint Mary's 1, Calif. 1, Winthrop 2, Minnesota 1, Ohio St. 1, Old Dominion 1, Penn 1, Texas Tech 1, UTEP 1, Vermont 1.			

Woods back on top, but for how long?

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Getting back to No. 1 in the world wasn't easy for Tiger Woods.

It took him eight tournaments over six months to nudge past Vijay Singh in the world ranking. And it required a Herculean effort against Phil Mickelson to win the Ford Championship at Doral, including some clutch shots that will be talked about the rest of the year.

Woods drove the 347-yard 16th green on Saturday. He twice reached the 603-yard 12th hole in two shots and made a 25-foot eagle putt in the final round to take the lead for the first time.

He made a 30-foot putt on the 17th hole that turned out to be the difference. And his 63-66 was the lowest weekend by a winner in the 44-year history at Doral.

"That was special," Woods said of his duel with Mickelson.

The last time Woods took over No. 1 in the world ranking, he won a memorable duel by making a clutch putt on the 17th hole at Medinah to beat 19-year-old Sergio Garcia in the final major of the millennium.

Woods then stayed on top for the next 264 weeks.

This time, it might not be that easy.

His reign could be over at the end of this week, or perhaps the end of the month.

"He's certainly going to have increased competition that he hasn't had in past years," Jack Nicklaus said Monday. "You heard me a couple of years ago. I said it was happening. I said I saw a lot of his competition had not shown up yet, or guys playing against him will raise the level of their golf game."

Nicklaus quickly ticked off the names of Mickelson, Singh and Retief Goosen, all of whom won majors last year, and all of whom were in the top eight at Doral. Halfway around the world, Ernie Els produced a dramatic finish of his own by making an 18-foot eagle on the last hole to win the Dubai Desert Classic.

Call it golf's version of March Madness.

"It's a great week for golf," said Zach Johnson, who tied for third with Singh at Doral. "This is what the spectators want. They want



Phil Mickelson flinches in agony after he just missed a chip shot on No. 18 that would have tied Tiger Woods for the lead in the Ford Championship at Doral. Woods, right, pumps his fist on the 17th green after making a 30-foot birdie putt to take the lead for good during the final round.



AP photos

these kind of duels. They will have a lot more of them. Tiger raised the bar. And now everybody is starting to come toward him."

After Woods won the '99 PGA Championship, he ended the season with four straight victories, then reeled off one of the greatest seasons in golf. Not only did he win nine tournaments and three straight majors in 2000, he won by record margins and left everyone in good for mind on the road to the Masters. "The Big Easy is close enough that he could be No. 1 by the end of the month."

Now the list of challengers is longer than ever.

Singh might be able to return to No. 1 this week if he wins the Honda Classic.

Els' victory in Dubai was his first of the year and puts him in a good frame of mind on the road to the Masters. "The Big Easy is close enough that he could be No. 1 by the end of the month."

Mickelson lost another final-round showdown with Woods, although he still might be the hottest player in golf. Coming off a five-shot victory in Phoenix and a wire-to-wire win at Pebble Beach, Lefty spent 10 consecutive rounds atop the leaderboard in stroke play and was shocked the streak didn't stretch to 11.

His back-to-back birdies after Woods pulled ahead for the first time was evidence that Mickelson is not one to wilt. He had a 30-foot birdie chip on the final hole that lipped out of the cup.

"I felt like I was playing better than anybody," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win, and when I didn't, it was a great slap in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to salvage a couple more shots. When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready."

On the surface, Woods looks as dynamic as ever.

After going four years without a comeback victory, Woods now has two in a row. He came from two shots down at Torrey Pines against Tom Lehman, then made up a two-shot deficit against Mickelson in the final round at Doral.

Woods beat Mickelson, but not without a tremendous effort.

"That shows you what kind of competitor Phil is," Woods said. "Don't forget what he did on that back nine. That was impressive to watch."

Equally impressive are the first two months of the PGA Tour season.

Singh won the Sony Open with a birdie on the final hole, after Els had closed with a 62. Woods and Mickelson each have won twice.

And while Els squandered two chances in Hawaii, the victory in Dubai was important.

The only question mark right now is Singh.

He missed the cut at Pebble Beach and was eliminated in the second round of the Match Play Championship. Singh hit the ball beautifully at Doral, but simply couldn't make enough putts. Still, it was his first top 10 finish since Hawaii.

Singh slipped out a side door without talking about his final round Sunday. He is the only player among the top five who is playing this week in the Honda Classic.

Mickelson is taking two weeks off, one of those a skiing trip with his family in Colorado.

Woods will take off next week before resuming his fight with the Masters — Bay Hill, The Players Championship, a week to practice and then on to Augusta, where he could find a large crowd of players capable of stopping him.

Grieving Nicklaus likely to skip Masters for just third time

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Jack Nicklaus had planned to squeeze in a few trips to Augusta National this month, making sure his 65-year-old body was fit and his game was good enough to compete in the Masters.

Now, the Masters is the last thing on his mind.

"I think with what's happened to us in our family, my time is going to be spent in much different ways," Nicklaus said Monday, his first public comments since his 17-month-old grandson drowned in a hot tub. "That's the most important thing right

now. And I think it will be the most important thing for a long time."

Nicklaus said his chances of playing the Masters are "between slim and none," although he plans to be at Augusta National for the Champions Dinner, maybe even the Par 3 Tournament.

He still would like to play the British Open at St. Andrews in July since this is his last year of eligibility and because his son, Steve, wants to cable for him.

It was Steve Nicklaus' son, Jake, who drowned Tuesday night.

Nicklaus sat before a small gathering Monday morning at The Loxahatchee Club, not as the steely-eyed winner of 18

major championships, but as a teary-eyed grandfather who had lost one of his 17 grandchildren.

He declined to cancel the appearance, saying it was the right thing to do.

"Life has got to move on. Life is for the living," Nicklaus said. "It hurts, but you go on. You make commitments, and you've got to do them."

Nicklaus is perhaps the greatest champion golfer has known, winning a record 18 majors over 25 seasons. But he has always taken more pride in his family.

There are the famous stories of how he fainted when his wife, Barbara, gave birth to each of their five children. There was

that memorable photo of him scooping up 4-year-old Gary after a round in the 1973 PGA Championship. Gary Nicklaus later played two years on the PGA Tour.

And when Nicklaus had his left hip replaced in 1999 — causing him to miss the Masters for the first time — he said it was to improve his quality of life so he could remain active with his grandchildren, not to help him play another major.

If he doesn't play at Augusta, it would be only the third time since he first played in 1959. After the hip replacement operation in 1999, he missed 2002 because of lingering back problems.

Nicklaus has not played the British Open since 2000 at St. Andrews.

SPORTS

The tides of March

Wild weekend finishes help stir up rankings among colleges' Top 25

BY JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

The end of Illinois' run at a perfect season turned out to be just one part of a wild Sunday for the top four teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll.

Just hours after Ohio State handed the top-ranked Illini their first loss of the season, No. 3 Kentucky lost by the same one-point margin to Florida.

It took a game-closing 11-0 run for No. 2 North Carolina to beat No. 6 Duke by two points, and then No. 4 Wake Forest needed a buzzer-beater from Chris Paul for a 55-53 victory over North Carolina State.

The top four went 2-2 just days before the conference tournaments get under way.

Illinois (29-1, 15-1 Big Ten) was trying to become the second team in two seasons to get to "Championship Week" without a loss.

Ohio State reserve Matt Sylvestor hit a three-pointer with 5.1 seconds left to give the Buckeyes the 65-64 lead and the Illini's Roger Powell Jr. wasn't close with a three-point attempt at the buzzer.

"Everyone says a loss will help. We'll find out," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said. "We'll learn from it and move on. This next stretch is the most important of the year and that's what people are going to remember."

Saint Joseph's was 27-0 last season when the top-ranked Hawks lost to Xavier by 20 points in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 tournament. The loss didn't derail their season by any means as they reached the round of eight in the NCAA tournament, losing to Oklahoma State in a thriller one game short of the Final Four.

Stanford also made a run at a perfect season last season, winning its first 26 before losing to Washington in the last game before the Pac-10 tournament. The Cardinal won the conference tournament, then were upset by Ala-

Sunday's scoreboard

Ohio State	65
No. 1 Illinois	64
No. 2 North Carolina	75
No. 6 Duke	73
Florida	53
No. 3 Kentucky	52
No. 4 Wake Forest	55
North Carolina State	53
Missouri	72
No. 7 Kansas	68

bama in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Xavier's coach in that game against Saint Joe's was Thad Matta. He moved on to Ohio State this season and on Sunday he ended another run at perfection.

"I'd like to be the other team just one time," Matta said, laughing. "I'm living for the day I'm the No. 1 team and someone else is trying to do it to us."

The last team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss was UNLV in 1991. The Runnin' Rebels lost to Duke in the Final Four.

The last team to go undefeated in a season was Indiana in 1976.

Illinois is still the top seed in this week's Big Ten tournament and it's hard to imagine the Illini losing the No. 1 ranking or a No. 1 seed in the NCAA's field of 65.

"I'd rather lose now than three weeks from now," Weber said.

North Carolina freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke.

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds to record his eighth straight double-double for North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), which won its first Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship since 1993, the same year of its most recent national title.

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak to Kentucky as Anthony Robinson scored 21 points,

Tiger returns to top of golf, but facing tough challenge to remain there, Page 39



AP photos

Clockwise from top: North Carolina's Sean May (right) shoots over Duke's Shelden Williams during the Tar Heels' victory. North Carolina scored the last 11 points and won the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title; Florida's Matt Walsh (right) hugs teammate Taurean Green after the Gators beat No. 3 Kentucky for the first time since March 2001; and Ohio State's J.J. Sullinger celebrates the Buckeyes' victory over Illinois Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. It was the top-ranked Illini's first loss of the season.

including two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

The Wildcats (23-4, 14-2 Southeastern Conference) had a chance to win it, but Keleena Azubike's three-pointer just before the buzzer bounced off the left side of the rim.

Paul went the length of the court in 4 seconds and hit the winner from about 12 feet for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3), who finished second to North Carolina in the ACC.

There is no record of the top three teams all losing on the same

day, although they have all lost in the same week several times.

The last time it happened was November 2003 when the top four — Connecticut, Duke, Michigan State and Arizona — went down.

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Croatia's Ljubicic ousts U.S. from Davis Cup Page 32

